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W. H. HODGE and DOUGLAS TAYLOR

THE ETHNOBOTANY OF THE ISLAND CARIBS OF DOMINICA

(WITH 40 FIGURES)

« da Webbia, Vol. XII, n. 2, pp. 513-644, 1957 »

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[Title page]

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[opposite p 573]

W. H. HODGE and DOUGLAS TAYLOR *

THE ETHNOBOTANY OF THE ISLAND CARIBS OF DOMINICA [1]

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the earliest contacts between North America and South [2] America was made almost certainly by way of the West Indies. Precolonial records of men and materials from these islands are therefore of unique interest to the Americanist. Unfortunately now when it is possible to investigate primitive Antillean societies we find that we are too late, for the aborigines have nearly all disappeared. Nor can we rely on the early chroniclers of this region (15) (35) (42) for their bulky writings are filled not with valuable notes of native «curiosities» but rather with lengthy accounts of their own personal problems.

Where local terrain in the West Indies permitted white settlement and exploitation much of the native flora and fauna, including man himself, disappeared. Among such elements was the Island Carib. Like other Indian groups of the Antilles he was naturally opposed to the adoption of the sort of production [17] organized solely for the enrichment of white men. With the Carib went many of the plant products that he used for food and drink, shelter, comfort and adornment, medicines and charms. These native species were for the most part replaced by imported species which had proved of greater commercial value to the invader. Fortunately among the Antilles there proved to be at least one sanctuary, the island of Dominica.

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[1] The British West Indian island of Dominica, sometimes confused with [31] the Dominican Republic in Hispaniola, is one of the Lesser Antilles and is located between 15°-10′ - 15°-40′ north latitude and 61°-44′ - 61°-30′ west longitude, more or less equidistant between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique.

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648 Because it was the most hostile and mountainous of all the Lesser Antillean islands, without flat lands for cultivation or a safe harbor for shipping, Dominica was long considered unworthy of capture (3) (66). As late as 1748 the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle assigned it « to the undisputed possession of the native Indian ». Even after the British occupation in 1760 the Caribs continued for many years to be an important independent group which inhabited the windward coast and the high wooded interior of the island. Today the few remaining families of Caribs on Dominica's rugged eastern coast are all that remain of the once powerful island tribes.

136 The same rugged physiography, which delayed and hindered the expansion of the white man and of the imported negro in Dominica has not only permitted the Carib to linger on but has also safeguarded various species of the biota, including those of native origin as well as those brought to the Antilles by the Indians. OBER (39), for example, has shown that half a dozen species of birds are peculiar to Dominica. In the reptilian and mammalian groups there are also endemic representatives. Fortunately the immigrant mongoose which has caused such havoc to the native fauna in certain of the neighboring isles has not yet migrated to Dominica.

137 Of her vegetation and flora Dominica can truly boast, for of all the Caribbees hers is one of the richest, the least despoiled, and perhaps the closest to its original natural state. This tiny island of but 300 square miles has more forested land than any other island in the Lesser Antilles, Trinidad excepted. But already [241] the destruction of the forests has begun, initiated by the widespread tropical habit of continually shifting the cultivated plot. Forest land is cleared and planted to native subsistence crops only to be abandoned after several years use when the fertility of the soil has been exhausted. Worthless and weedy trees, exemplified by certain species of the genus *Miconia* (locally known as bois krékré), are favored by the progressive clearing of the forest. Until recently the lack of proper forestry regulations helped to darken the picture, and valuable trees such as laurier de rose (*Ocotea* sp. [2]) and Spanish Cedar (*Cedrela odorata* L.) have rapidly

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[2] Names of the authorities are omitted in the text if the species is treated in the systematic enumeration that follows.

[text continues on p. 516. - Am.]

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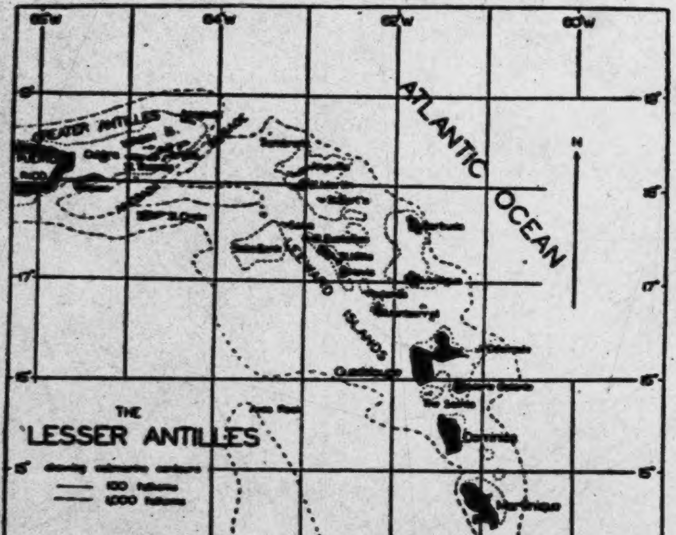
66°W
64°W
62°W
60°W
ATLANTIC OCEAN
N
18°
17°
16°
15°
14°
13°
12°
11°
10°
GREATER ANTILLES
LEEWARD ISLANDS
Guadeloupe
The Saints
Dominica
THE LESSER ANTILLES
showing submarine contours
100 fathoms
1000 fathoms
Martinique
St Lucia
St Vincent
WINDWARD ISLANDS
Barbados
Grenada
Tobago
TRINIDAD
VENEZUELA
Gulf of Paria

Fig. 1 – The Lesser Antilles showing the central position of Dominica (Courtesy of J. S. Beard).

137 declined in numbers. Many of the more desirable species are *arbres de chasse*, the distribution of their fruits aided by native doves and forest pigeons. The extinction of such « hunter's trees » tends to reduce the avian population. The inevitable result is a depletion of both fauna and flora.

All these are signs that Dominica may no longer continue to 177 be a natural West Indian reservoir of wild life. The Caribs are also in danger. Negro infiltration and the coming to the Indian Reserve of a church, of a school, and of a police station have led not only to the abandonment of the Carib language but also to the loss of much of the tribe's stock of nature-lore.

The opening up of new land has pushed the forest much farther from the Caribs' homes than it was even thirty years ago. Difficulty in obtaining from the forest those raw materials needed in basketry and in dugout canoe building has brought about a gradual decline of these and allied crafts. One result is that the [241] Caribs now have more time to spend tending imported crops planted in their provision grounds. These gardens, like all others in Dominica, are cultivated without deep digging or manuring on the primitive system of clearing and burning the forest, gathering one or two crops, and moving farther afield. Another result [224] of the retreat of the forest is a decrease in the number of hunters. These men were naturally the best acquainted with those wild plants which could be of use while in the woods. Moreover many « medicines » and vegetable « charms » were operative for success in the chase; and the knowledge of the virtues of such plants [824] remained the property of individual hunters or of their families. The loss of the hunter class has thus meant the loss of much plant-lore.

177 The addition of an extension to the Imperial Road (the principal high road of Dominica), which now practically cuts the island in 491 two, will probably complete the process of culture disintegration and of forest disintegration. With these will go still more of the plant-lore and, as elsewhere in the West Indies, the road system may even lead to the extinction of many interesting species.

121 From the above it is easy to see that an ethnobotanical paper on the Island Carib is timely. The value of ethnobotany as an aid in tracing the origin and migrations of peoples and in ex-

[text continues on p. 518. -Analyst]

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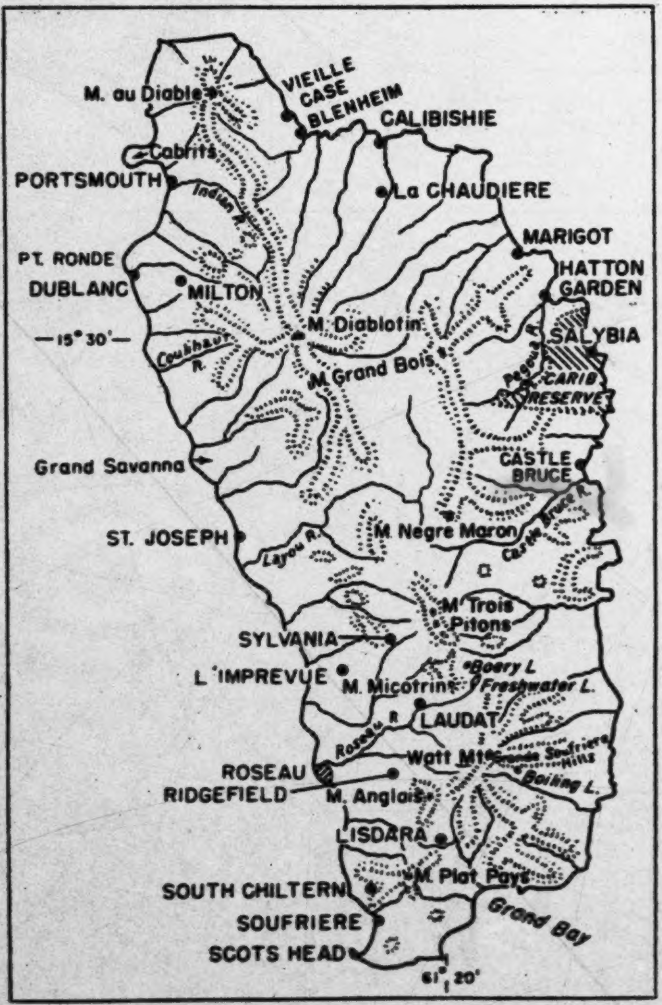
M. au Diable
VIEILLE CASE
BLENHEIM
CALIBISHIE
Cabrits
PORTSMOUTH
Indian R.
La CHAUDIERE
MARIGOT
PT. RONDE
DUBLANC
MILTON
HATTON GARDEN
SALYBIA
—15° 30'—
Coulibaut R.
M. Diablotin
M. Grand Bois
Pagoua R.
CARIB RESERVE
Grand Savanna
CASTLE BRUCE
Castle Bruce R.
M. Negre Maron
ST. JOSEPH
Layou R.
M. Trois Pitons
SYLVANIA
L'IMPREVUE
Boery L
M. Micotrin
Freshwater L.
LAUDAT
Roseau R.
Watt Mt.
Grande Soufriere Hills
ROSEAU
Boiling L.
RIDGEFIELD
M. Anglais
LISDARA
M. Plat Pays
SOUTH CHILTERN
SOUFRIERE
Grand Bay
SCOTS HEAD
61° 20'

Fig. 2 – Dominica, showing location of the Carib Reserve on the windward coast. The island is about 30 miles long and up to 15 miles broad.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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121 plaining changes in their social structure is universally recognized by ethnologists today. In an article on American culture history LOWIE recently wrote (36): « Another interesting question is how far the Southeast of the United States has been influenced by the Amazon-Orinoco area via the West Indies ». Further on he mentions the lack of published botanical data dealing with such plants as maize, manioc, and the species supplying fish poisons.

It is the hope of the present authors that at least some of the plant-lore of the Island Caribs may be permanently recorded in this publication. The aim of this paper is to provide accurate botanical and ethnographical information about species gathered or cultivated by the Caribs of Dominica not only today but also (as far as possible) in the past. Certain modern commercial crops — such as limes, oranges, and vanilla — which play a part in Carib economy today have been excluded. It is not claimed that all the species included in our list were found growing in the islands at the time of their discovery, for indeed a number of them are of Old World origin. The origin of such species is stated in the enumeration of plants.

II. HISTORICAL NOTES

101 174 At the time of the Spanish Conquest, the Greater Antilles and the Bahamas were dominated by an Arawakan-speaking people with a stratified society and a religious cult involving priests and idols. These *Tainos*, as they have been called, practised horticulture and made pottery, as did also another, more warlike people called *Maçoriges* or *Ciguayos*, who occupied a part of north-eastern Hispaniola, but about whom little else is known. Nor can much be said about the primitive *Siboneyes* or *Guanahatabeyes*, of whom only a few then remained in the western extremity of Cuba, except that they — unlike other inhabitants of the West Indian islands — had probably come from North America rather than from South America, and still had a non-horticultural and pre-ceramic culture.

191 198 The Lesser Antilles, from Tobago in the south to Vieques in the north-west, were then occupied by a people called *Kariphuna* or *Island-Carib*, about whom the most widely known fact is that they all used two distinct languages: a « women's speech » belonging to the same linguistic stock (Arawakan) as did Taino, and a « men's speech » belonging to the Cariban family of languages. It is less generally known that, by the middle of the seventeenth century when these languages first were recorded, the latter had degenerated to a jargon in the sense that it could not be used for ordinary communication without resort to a host of grammatical words and affixes belonging to the « women's speech », which was in fact the first language of male and female alike. The

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« men's speech » was then — and in all probability long had been — a secondary language learnt in late childhood for reasons of prestige. According to Island-Carib tradition, which there seems to be no cause for doubting, the explanation of this peculiar situation is that these islands had been conquered before the coming of the Europeans by a band of *Galibi* (*Kalina* or *True Carib*) warriors from Guiana, who had taken the female inhabitants to wife and killed all the men. 191 198 [173]

What we may call the national language of the historical Island-Carib is no more Cariban than is English, since the Norman Conquest, a Romance language. But although it is, like them, Arawakan, Kariphuna (Island-Carib) appears to have emerged from the parent tongue centuries before Taino, Lokono, Goajiro and Paraujano; and was therefore most probably brought to these islands by a separate migration. From radiocarbon dating it now appears, on the other hand, that the type of pottery known as « White-on-red », and found only in the valley of the Orinoco and in the Antilles, was being made on the lower Orinoco as early as 800 B. C., while a pre-ceramic culture flourished at the same period on the neighbouring island of Trinidad. At that time, the ancestors of the above-named Arawakan-speaking tribes formed, in all likelihood, a united people speaking one language; and we may conjecture that the first split came about through a partial migration that took horticulture and pottery to Trinidad. The geographical situation in historical times of the Taino, Island-Carib, and Lokono further suggests that the first migrants spread in the course of time to other, more northerly islands, where they were subsequently cut off from their fellow tribesmen in Trinidad by a second migration from the mainland — that of the Island-Caribs' Arawakan-speaking ancestors, who had not participated in the first migration. 174 197

It may be fairly assumed that horticulture and pottery were already known to an Arawakan-speaking tribe ancestral to all those we have mentioned so far; but it would not be surprising had the later migrants, whether friendly or hostile to the earlier settlers, introduced innovations that were welcome to the latter dwellers on the periphery of a culture-area. And indeed Taino and Island-Carib have in common several culture words that, whatever their ancestry, are not shared by Lokono or Goajiro, whose basic vocabularies apparently are closer to that of Taino than to that of the Island-Carib. So, for example, the basketry ' sifter ' is called *hibis* in Taino and *hibiset* in Island-Carib, but *manare* (borrowed from a Cariban language) in Lokono; the little tree, *Bixa orellana*, whose fruit provided a red paint, is called *bija* in Taino and *biset* in Island-Carib, but *sirabuli* in Lokono; *Genipa americana*, whose fruit provided a black stain, is called *jagua* in Taino and *saua* in Island-Carib, but *lana* in Lokono; and the pineapple is called *iaiama* in both Taino and Island-Carib, but *nana* in Lokono. Institutional friendship, known both to the Taino and to the Island-Carib (but not to the Lokono), was designated as *watiao* (by the former) or *watiaö* (by the latter) ' our friend ', *datiao* (by the former) or *nitiaö* (by the latter) ' my friend '. This last example also suggests a closer genetic relationship between Taino and Lokono, which also has the prefix d(a)- as marker of first person singular; compare Lokono *dakitada* ' my clan ' with Island-Carib *nikitiara* ' my (fishing-) line ', string (for bow), etc. 174 177 197

Also the Carib invaders of the Lesser Antilles undoubtedly brought with them changes and innovations, many of which are reflected in the vocabulary. To judge from the latter, these mainly concerned affinal (as opposed to con- 174 177 182

174 sanguineal) kinship, religion and ritual, warfare and navigation, basketry and
177 house construction. Among the plants that may have been introduced by
them we may mention a fish-drug (*Clibadium sylvestre*); an herb for curing
192 arrow wounds; the arrow reed (*Gynerium sagittatum*); a marantaceous plant,
Ischnosiphon arouma, that is still the principal material employed for basketry,
and the cashew tree (*Anacardium occidentale*). It is worth noticing that a considerable number of the cultural words that were borrowed presumably from Cariban Kalina are also found in Tupi.

The most recent invaders of these islands, the Europeans themselves, introduced a large number of new things and concepts, together with the words that, for the most part, served the Island-Caribs as models for naming them. BRETON's dictionary (7) contains some six dozen of these loan-words, of which the great majority comes from Spanish (although thereafter borrowing was mainly from French). These include the names of various weapons, tools, clothes and ornaments; of bread, wine, salt and sugar; of carpenter, Christian, coast-guard, king, priest; of Englishman, Flemming, Frenchman, Irishman, Negro and Spaniard; those for the pig, cow, cat, rat, horse, donkey, goat, sheep and hen; those for the coconut, pine (presumably wood rather than tree), and sugar-cane; and those for church, prayer and baptize.

What may be called the political history of the Island Carib in early
175 colonial times has been summarized in another work (58, Introduction), from
which the following citations are taken: « ... by 1493 they had halted in their
648 advance, and, except for sporadic feuds of an almost personal character, had
established friendly relations with their neighbours to the northwest, the Taino of Puerto Rico, alongside of whom they fought as allies in the unavailing attempt of its inhabitants to defend that island from the Spaniards... Little is heard of the Caribbee islands from the time of the Tainos' defeat, until, in 1622-1623, St. Kitts (Saint Christopher's) was 'rediscovered' for the French by d'Esnambuc, and for the English by Warner. But although they remained unconquered throughout these years, they did not escape ravage. In 1515 the Carib of Guadeloupe... repulsed a Spanish attack under Ponce de Leon; and defeated, in 1520, an attempted settlement of their island led by Diego Colon, governor of Hispaniola. Laudonniere was told by the Carib of Dominica... — where he touched in 1564, and peaceably traded hatchets, knives, and beads for plantains, pineapples, and sweet potatoes — that they greatly feared the Spaniards, who came thither and 'cut off their stones'. And from this same group Father Raymond Breton heard similar complaints some seventy-five years later ».

Guerrilla warfare between the Europeans and the Indians, with peaceful intermissions, continued throughout the seventeenth century, as one island after another fell to the Dutch, English, or French; until, in 1660, these last two powers signed a treaty guaranteeing the « perpetual possession » of Dominica and St. Vincent to the Island Carib, who on their side, undertook to cease raiding the European settlements on the other islands (this agreement was reaffirmed in 1748 in the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle). Nevertheless, the conflict continued; and by the turn of the century the Indians had been reduced, according to la Borde, to some four thousand souls divided between the two islands still remaining to them. The end came in 1763, when England, at the treaty of Paris, formally annexed both Dominica and St. Vincent. However, the Indians, though henceforth confined to the more inaccessible

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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parts of these islands, continued to live by hunting, fishing, and food-gathering, 175
with a minimum of horticulture in burnt forest clearings ; and kept up their 648
trade-excursions to the Guianas until well into the nineteenth century.

Division of labour was as follows : 462

Women	*Men*
planting, weeding, reaping, food-gathering.	felling, burning, and clearing land.
preparation of food, drink, oil, paint.	fishing and hunting.
carrying of water, fuel, food.	house construction.
making : pottery	making : dugouts, paddles, masts, and sails
cassava griddles	bows, arrows, clubs, and blow-tubes
calabash-vessels	stools, mortars and pestles
« teeth » for stone-chip graters.	cassava-troughs
spinning cotton thread (with spindles).	grater-boards
weaving hammocks.	cane-presses
	carved wooden and moulded waxen figurines.
	spinning bromelia twine (on leg).
	weaving all basketry.

While all women were supposed to acquire such accomplishments as the making of pottery, the spinning of cotton, and the weaving of hammocks, some of the men's work was more specialized, particularly with regard to the building of dugout canoes and to basketry. The latter craft had been carried to a degree of perfection and artistry rendered possible only by the fineness of the principal material used (*Ischnosiphon arouma*). Most complicated as to construction is the long tubular cassava-press (*rukúma*), to make which a knowledge of various techniques and patterns is required. Sifters are of a more-or-less open « hourglass » twill, and are round in shape. Back-baskets or « carry-alls » (*katáuli*) were of two kinds, the commoner consisting of a back, two sides, and a base, woven in « hourglass » twill, and mounted on a frame that made it possible to rest the load without lowering it to the ground. These were supported when in use by a band passing over the bearer's forehead. Lattice-type, hexagonal weave containers for food and offerings were

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[482]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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285 called *[illegible]*. Basketry «satchels» slung by a cord or band from the shoulder (*[illegible]*), and «travel-baskets» carried in canoes or used in the home for storage (*[illegible]*), are closely woven in twill or wickerwork and in a variety of patterns. Moreover, each such basket consists of a «head» and a «bottom» which telescope into one another; each of these in turn being made in duplicate of an outer «skin» and an inner «member» between which layers of cachibou leaves (*Calathea lutea*) are arranged in such a way as to render the container waterproof.

177 For obvious reasons, stone implements, bone fish-hooks, and (later) baked-clay griddles and bows and arrows ceased to be made as soon as they could be replaced by their more efficient European equivalents. Nor have hammocks or pottery been regularly made for the past hundred years. But most of the basketry, dugout canoes, bromelia fishing-lines, wooden mortars and pestles and troughs, cane-presses, and calabash vessels are still made and used; while horticulture of the «slash and burn» variety is still carried on by means of the billhookshaped «cutlass» and the dibble or digging stick.

241 177 In their gardens or provision-grounds, which were (and are) always situated on the interior heights behind their homes, various kinds of manioc and sweet potatoes predominated. «Pumpkins» (*[illegible]*) and maize were secondary crops. Plantains (*[illegible]*), an importation from the Old World, and possibly bananas (of a variety called *[illegible]*), were cultivated soon after the Conquest, and soon became very popular, as also did one tropical American species of yam (*Dioscorea trifida*, Island-Carib *[illegible]*). The present-day predominance of other true yams from the Old World, oriental «dasheen» (chou de Chine), and New World tania (Island-Carib men *[illegible]*, women *[illegible]*) is of recent date among the Indians of Dominica. With the exception of tania, these crops would seem to have been taken over from the Negroes in the last thirty or forty years in order to offset a decline in game, wild foodstuffs, and fish.

197 198 Island-Carib men continued to learn and use a special vocabulary of Cariban ancestry, which gradually dwindled until, a generation before the last native speaker of the Dominican dialect died (about 1920), this consisted of little more than a score of words, among which were those for «I» (m. *áu*, w. *nukúia*), «thou» (m. *amóro*, w. *bukúia*), «man» (m. *wókiri*, w. *eyéri*), and «woman» (m. *wörí*, w. *hiáru*), employed in a language whose flexions, syntax, and other basic vocabulary were essentially Arawakan.

131 Until the present «Carib Reserve» was formed in 1903, the Indians were scattered in various settlements along the north, east, and south shores of Dominica. The reservation is situated near the middle of the windward coast, and comprises 3700 acres of rugged indented coastline to which spurs run down from a mountain chain running roughly north and south. By the middle of the seventeenth century, the Dominican Island-Carib had, according to [144 du Tertre, acquired a few slaves; and it is probably with these that miscegenation started. Today the Reserve has about five hundred inhabitants, of whom 567] not more than a fifth can reasonably be considered as «full-blooded» Amerindians.

x 626 Plant lore among the Carib may be roughly divided into three classes:

1. Species, wild or cultivated, which are or may be used for food or drink.
2. Species, wild or cultivated, which are or may be used for domestic purposes, including the making of dugouts and all implements and utensils pertaining to hunting, fishing, gardening, food gathering and preparation.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, Σ-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

W. H. HODGE & DOUGLAS TAYLOR, *The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica.*

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

LANDSCAPES OF THE CARIB COAST OF DOMINICA. — Fig. 3 - Beach at Calibishie. — Fig. 4 – Windswept vegetation on bluffs near the Crayfish River in the Carib Reserve.

[opposite p. 522]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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291
482
516
392
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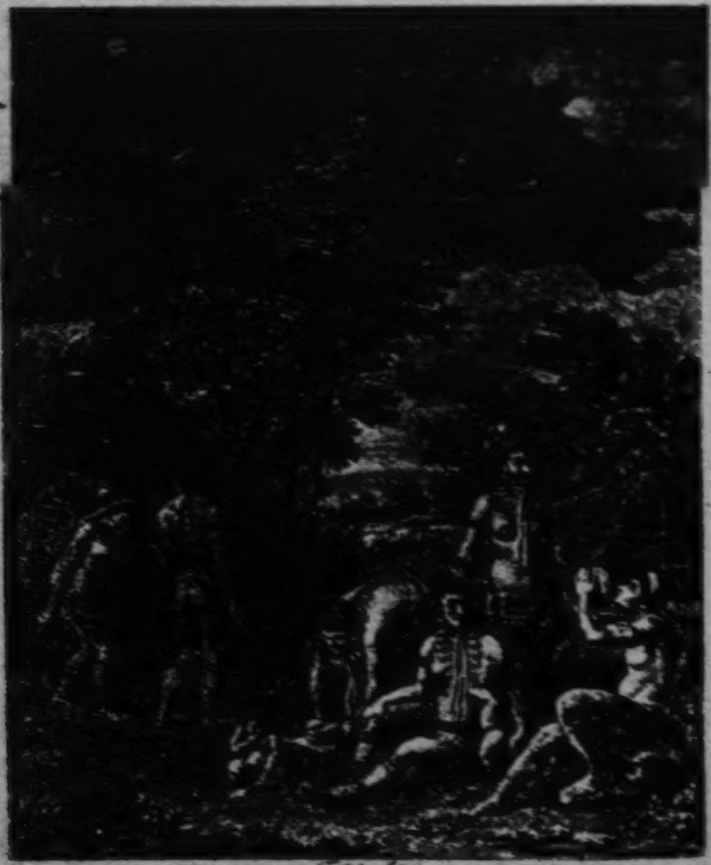

A FAMILY of CHARAIBES, drawn from the Life, in the ISLAND of St. VINCENT.

[illegible]

Fig. 5 – A Carib family, drawn from life, in the Island of St. Vincent (From an early engraving) [opposite p. 523]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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3. Species which are believed to have medicinal [5], questionable medicinal, or magic virtues [6]. 824^x

Doubtless all plant lore is on the wane, but the third class is the only one which presents serious difficulties with regard to obtaining information, at least as far as present day knowledge goes. This class of plant lore belongs now only to a few old men and women who regard such knowledge as their private property and are less willing to part with it, even for money, than a zealous housewife with her grandmother's cooking recipes.

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The authors have assembled the following notes on the uses of certain plants by the Island Caribs of Dominica following independent investigations in the fields of botany and ethnography. 114 122

Intensive botanical studies in Dominica were initiated by the senior author in 1937. The following year, aided by a grant from the Gray Herbarium, and again in 1940, as a Parker Fellow of Harvard University, he made return visits to continue this work. During the period of this field work brief visits to the Carib Reserve were made during which the majority of plants on which this publication is based were collected. A number of additional specimens of Carib economic plants also have been collected and forwarded from Dominica by the junior author.

Research by the junior author began in Dominica in 1930 and since 1938 the island has been his home. Visits to the Carib Reserve have been frequent, and the results of some of his ethnographical studies appear as citations in the bibliography of this work (52 - 63).

In this contribution the International Rules governing botanical nomenclature have been followed. Certain binomials which have appeared in basic West Indian floras are no longer accepted by botanists as valid names. These have been included in synonymy. The plant families follow the arrangement 128

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[5] Many of these are still used and so are enumerated in the pages that follow, but some apparently have been long forgotten. Among the latter is one given by DuTertre (18) under the Carib name, *rébéhiel*. Breton (7) describes it as « a real reed (jonc) » whose needle-thin roots thicken at intervals like the big beads of a rosary. One of these, when crushed, will bring about a « painless accouchement... more than one would injure the child ». *Rébéhiel* sounds as though it has some of the botanical characteristics of an *Eleocharis* but the authors know of no plant like it from Dominica. However, Breton also calls *Ischnosiphon arouma* a « jonc » so it is difficult to know what kind of plant to look for. 278

[6] The rarer the plant the more marvelous are its properties as a charm among the Island Caribs. In fact certain species like the *carotte de montagne* are so rare that they appear to exist only in legend. [78]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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128 used in the ENGLER and PRANTL system (16), but the genera and species are listed alphabetically.

When available, the vernacular names are cited in three languages, English,
128 Creole patois, and Carib. The English names represent those commonly used
141 in neighboring British islands of the West Indies, and in cases they may have some usage in Dominica. The spoken language of the majority of the inhabitants of Dominica is an unwritten French «Creole» or «patois» whose vocabulary is 90 % of French ancestry with a syntax largely of African form. Patois names, therefore, form the bulk of the vernacular appelations used in the island. Although some Creole names of Dominica have been found to be identical with those applied to the same species in the French Antilles, many exceptions exist and it is not at all safe to infer that because the vernacular name in Guadeloupe or Martinique applies to one species it necessarily has to apply to the identical one when it occurs in Dominica. Indeed there are instances in Dominica where a single patois name is applied to widely different species (e.g. bois chandelle, bois tan, larali, mang'-rouge, mibi, alumette, and the like).

Some of the patois names (e.g. cachibou, cacounier, courbari, kalaboulli; yanga, etc.) stem from Carib or Arawak names. But aboriginal names are comparatively few for no longer is the Carib language spoken, its use having passed out with the last generation. The Indian names [a] included in this work have been obtained from various sources, but chiefly from older Carib informants and certain early authors (7) (41) (42). In a number of cases two aboriginal names are listed. This reflects the bilingual structure of a tongue composed of both Carib (men's) and Arawak (women's) idioms. In such instances in the text, names used by the men are indicated by the symbol (m), while those used by the women are followed by the symbol (w).

104 In the discussion of the individual economic plants the majority of patois names are written in French orthography while the spelling of Carib words is phonemic.

Two parts of this paper, «Historical Notes» and the «Index to Carib
128 Names of Plants», were revised just before this contribution went to the editor. While every reasonable care has been taken to bring the text in line with changes made, readers are requested to overlook any apparent inconsistencies in the spelling of native names.

Geographical ranges of the plant species are given in order to give a possible clue as to the origin of the species. This is especially important in an archipelago like the Lesser Antilles which is considered to possess a biota of wail origin. These geographical data have been compiled from West Indian floras (6) (18) (64) (67), as well as from specimens in the collections of the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. The altitudinal distribution in Dominica of the various species is indicated by three approximate phrases: lower elevations (sea level to 1500 feet), middle elevations (1500-2500 feet), and higher elevations (2500 feet and above).

Specimen citations of the plants used by the Island Caribs have been included at the end of the discussion of each species. Collection numbers followed by the symbol (T) indicate herbarium specimens made by Douglas TAYLOR; all others are from the collections of Walter H. and Barbara T.

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[a] All aboriginal (Carib or Arawak) names used in this paper are italicized.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

HODGE. These voucher specimens of the plants used by the Dominica Caribs have been determined and deposited at the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University. Certain duplicates may also be found in the herbaria of the Bailey Hortorium, the New York Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Massachusetts, and the British Museum (N. H.). 128

IV. CATALOGUE OF THE KNOWN ECONOMIC PLANTS OF THE DOMINICA CARIBS

824¹

CYATHEACEAE. Tree-Fern Family.

Cyathea arborea (Linnaeus) J. E. Smith, Mem. Acad. Turin 5.: 417. 1793.
Fougère, Tree-Fern. — *amánaci*.

A common tree-fern of the West Indies, Mexico and Venezuela. In Dominica this beautiful species is a weed of open wet slopes at lower and middle elevations where it often forms extensive colonies on abandoned cultivations.

The woody caudex is dried by the Caribs and used as a tinder. [372] Since the wood is peaty it burns readily for long periods and so is used to carry fire from place to place. The spores are said to [789] be used as a « charm », and are gathered by spreading a sheet beneath a fertile plant « on Midsummer Night ».

Specimen citation: 6, 7, 2444, 2880.

PANDANACEAE. Screw-Pine Family.

Pandanus utilis Bory, Voy. 2: 260. 1804.
Screw-Pine. — *bárakua* (« ungual »?).

A native of Madagascar, sometimes cultivated in the West Indies. This species has become naturalised in several coastal areas (e. g. Marigot, Hatton Garden, etc.) of Dominica.

The septa of the leaves are prepared in the same way as latanier (*Coccothrinax martinicensis*), and are used by the Caribs [285] for plaiting hats and baskets and occasionally as thatch for huts [342] or shelters.

Specimen citation: No herbarium material collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

GRAMINEAE. Grass Family.

X 824 **Andropogon bicornis** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1046. 1753.

Anatherum bicorne Beauvois, Ess. Agrost. 128. 1812.

Panache.

A species found from southern Mexico to Brazil and throughout the West Indies, usually on grassy slopes.

[36] [352] Panache is employed by the Carib as a second-rate thatching material while the hairs of the raceme are sometimes used to stuff pillows.

Specimen citation: 3166, 3352.

Bambusa vulgaris Schrader ex Wendland, Coll. Pl. 2: 26. t. 47. 1810.

Bambusa sieberi Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 528. 1864.

Common Bamboo. — *kuáma* (« plume », « panache »).

Common bamboo, a native of the Old World, is now widely planted in the tropics of both hemispheres. In Dominica the beautiful arching plumes of this grass are familiar especially along roads and water courses at lower and middle elevations.

[227] [312] Wherever it is grown bamboo has a number of native uses. The Creoles of Dominica construct fishpots from the split stems, and the canes themselves with the septa removed often serve as temporary water pipes.

285 X 824 The Carib Indians dry the stems indoors and then split them into fine strands which are woven into *sambura*, a kind of round basket with a narrow mouth used for the catch made while fishing from the coastal rocks or in the rivers. Except for its shape the *sambura* is of similar construction (a round radial type) to baskets made of *mibi* (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*), liane X 824 pomme (*Passiflora laurifolia*), and the like. Bamboo is employed [283] also in fashioning a strong type of garden basket and, as a substitute for cotton thread, in the making of *kali*, the Carib and [227] local name for a kind of fishpot or landing net used to catch flying fish.

Specimen citation: 174.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Eleusine indica (Linnaeus) Gaertner, Fruct. & Sem. 1: 8. 1788. 824x
Fowl's Foot, Pied Poule.

A weedy grass native to India but widely distributed in the tropical and warm temperate regions of both hemispheres.

Caribs crush the plant with salt and apply it as a poultice to sprains and dislocations. [952]

Specimen citation: 185, 2462, 3620.

Gynerium sagittatum (Aublet) Beauvois, Ess. Agrost. 138. t. 24. f. 1812.

Arundo saccharoides Poiret in Lam. Encycl. Sup. 4: 703. 1816.
Arrow, Wild Cane. — Roseau. — *bulúua* (m) (« arrow », « pierce »), *mabúlu*, *mabúru*.[6]

This tall reed is found throughout tropical America where it is widely used as laths in light construction work. It is to be seen in Dominica chiefly along stream-banks where it often forms colonies in full sunlight. The grass is grown by the Barama River Caribs of Guiana under the name *mapuru epui*. From the stems they fashion shafts for arrows.

For plaiting bands subsequently sewn together by the Dominica Caribs to make hats, the midrib of the leaf is peeled, bleached by laying it in the dew, and sun-dried. The young main-stem, prepared in the same manner as that of *Ischnosiphon arouma*, is used for weaving small decorative baskets (either alone or in conjunction with split stems of *Ischnosiphon arouma*), fans, mats, etc.; while more mature stems are chosen for edging and reinforcing the corners of Carib baskets. Mature inflorescence stems are very straight and were used formerly for arrows as they are by lowland Indians even today in other parts of Latin America. The « heart » (i. e. the young shoot of unopened leaves) of this species is used as a shampoo when washing the hair (as are the small [285] [411] 824x 302

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[6] BARROW (7) lists three aboriginal names for « roseau ». All probably apply to *Gynerium sagittatum* but we are certain only of *bulúua*, which he records: « ... it produces its flower at the top, and bears a 'panache' (plume) which when detached leaves a perfectly straight rod ». He states, further, that laths and palisading (wattlework) are made from the stems of the roseau called *mabúlu*, and baskets from that called *tibochet*. All these uses are still known to the Carib with reference to the ordinary roseau described above. [517] [285]

824 abortive fruits of *Theobroma cacao*, z'herbes balié, and the like)
[303] to promote a luxuriant growth. The fanlike blades or «heads»
are used for thatch and the stems as thatching rods, screens, and
[342] lattice doorways. The ashes of burnt leaves are mixed with the
sap from stems of balisier (*Heliconia* spp.) and juicy pulp of the
[278] genip (*Genipa americana*), and then are rubbed on the bodies
of those suffering from yaws (*framboesia*).

Specimen citation: 3197.

Paspalum laxum Lamarck, Tabl. Encycl. 1: 176. 1791.

Paspalum glabrum Poiret in Lam. Encycl. 5: 30. 1804.

Chien-Dent.

This is a common coastal grass to be found in sandy or rocky soils throughout the West Indies.

[856] Caribs place the whole plant in water which is then given as a drink to infants in order to hasten teething.

Specimen citation: 3309.

Saccharum officinarum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 54. 1753.

kániec (from Spanish *caña*).

A native of southeast Asia cultivated in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres.

The growing of sugarcane was initiated in the West Indies early in the sixteenth century and the plant is now the most important product of many of the islands. Although unimportant in Dominica sufficient cane is grown to supply local demands.

[249] Patches of sugarcane are to be found in the Carib Reserve
and nearly every hut has in its surrounding yard a primitive
single-post-and-lever-type of cane press with which to express the
[263] «vesou» or juice. The latter is used in place of refined sugar in
cocoa, coffee, and for general cooking.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Vetiveria zizanioides (Linnaeus) Nash in Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 67. 1903.

Vetiveria arundinacea Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 559. 1864.

Andropogon zizanioides Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 79. 1903.

Anatherum zizanioides Hitchcock and Chase, Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. 18: 285. 1917. 824x

Khus-khus [7]. — Vetiver.

Vetiver is a native of Asia but is cultivated in the tropics of both hemispheres.

Screens used to perfume living quarters are constructed from the roots of this species (23). In Dominica, as elsewhere, the roots are dried and bundled to place in drawers for scenting linen, etc. [314]

The leaves of vetiver are bleached by boiling, are sundried, and then are split in two by the Caribs for plaiting hats. [285]

Specimen citation: 227.

Zea mays Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 971. 1753.

Maize, Indian Corn. — Mais (French); mai, mi (patois). — *audsi* (m) (cf. Tupi *abata*), *márisi* (w).

Maize is a tropical American contribution to the world's cereals, yet the exact source of its origin in the Americas is still debatable. It has been grown as a basic American crop since prehistoric time, and even in pre-Columbian days was cultivated from southern Canada to Chile and Argentina (1) (21) (22). Corn was first seen growing in the West Indies by Columbus, who called it maiz. According to MANGLESDORF and REEVES (38), the flint corn so characteristic of the West Indies, was probably introduced from South America although it is most closely related to Central American types. [177]

Corn is grown for food by the Island Caribs who always eat it roasted, never boiled; nor is corn flour ground locally. Actually this vegetable is more a delicacy with the Indians than a staple food, and is reputed to have the properties of an aphrodisiac. Kernels of maize are sown or planted in preference by newly pregnant girls who believe their condition will cause the plant to bear more abundantly. As in all other agricultural activities — sowing and reaping, felling timber, etc. — planting of corn is rigidly regulated by the phases of the moon. 824x 243 [252]

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

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[7] Varieties of the yam (*Dioscorea trifida*) with purplish, reddish, or whitish flesh are also called « khus-khus » or « kus-kush » in Dominica.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x 824

CYPERACEAE. Sedge Family.

Dichromena ciliata Vahl, Enum. 2: 240. 1805.

Rynchospora pura Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 577. 1864.

Z'Herbes Paillasse, Zeb Paillasse.

A common and attractive sedge of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica the plant may be found in grassy places at lower and middle elevations.

[352] The whole plant is dried by the Carib and is then used as a stuffing for mattresses.

Specimen citation: 3214

PALMAE. Palm Family.

Acrocomia aculeata (Jacquin) Loddiges ex Martius, Hist. Nat. Palm. 3: 286. 1843.

Acrocomia lasiospatha Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 521. 1864, in part, *non* Martius.

Acrocomia sclerocarpa Duss, Fl. Phan. Ant. Franc. 489. 1897, *non* Martius.

Glou-glou. — *iaudla*[8] (cf. Tupi *yawari*).

The glou-glou palm is the type species of the genus and as far as is known occurs only on low drier coastal areas on Dominica and Martinique.

[262 223] The small edible fruits possess a coconut-like pulp. Until recently a sort of wine was made by tapping the young inflorescence shoot (« heart ») near the base and allowing the collected juice to ferment. [283] Breton (7) records an early use of the sharp spines of *iaudla*: « ... the spines, long as the finger, are used by the Carib in cording cotton ».

Specimen citation: 3133.

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[8] This should not be confused with a montane palm, *Euterpe globosa* Gaertn., whose patois name, yaula or Gaula, seems to stem from this Carib name for the glou-glou palm.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

WEBBIA VOL. XII, TAV. LXXXVI

W. H. Hodge & Douglas Taylor, *The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica.*

302
142
[291]

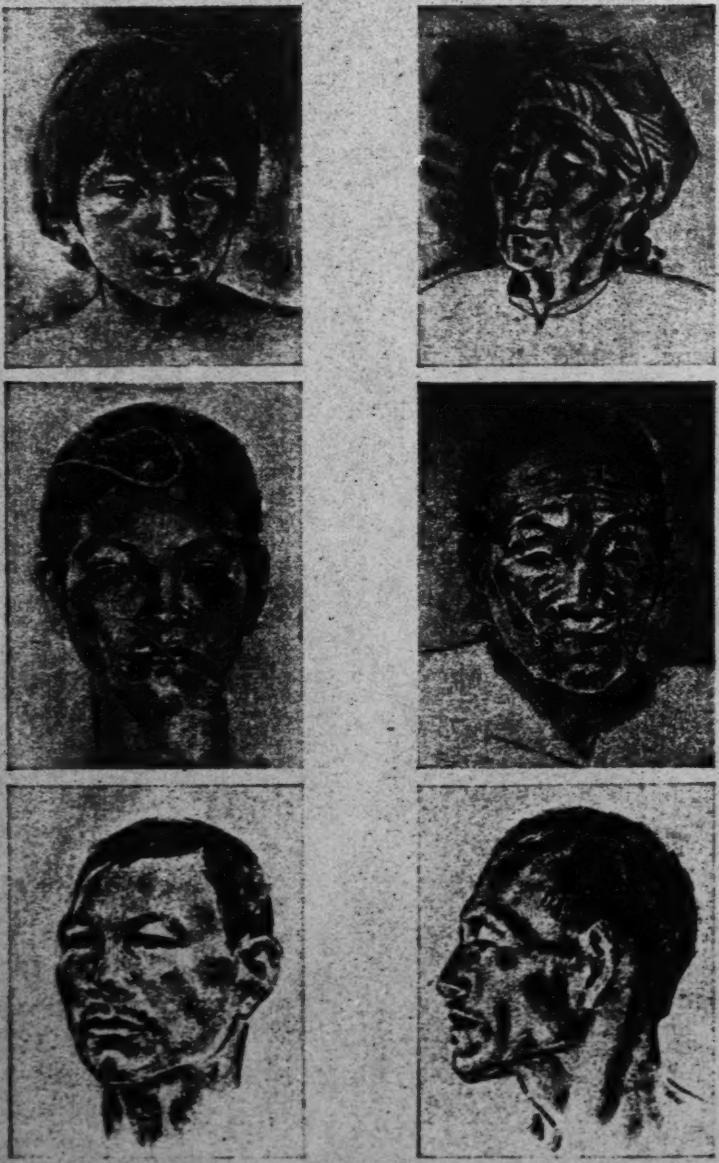

Fig. 6 – Contemporary Carib types from Dominica (Reproduced from sketches by Hester Merwin). [opposite p. 530]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

WEBBIA VOL. XII, TAV. LXXXVII
W. H. Hodge & Douglas Taylor, *The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica.*

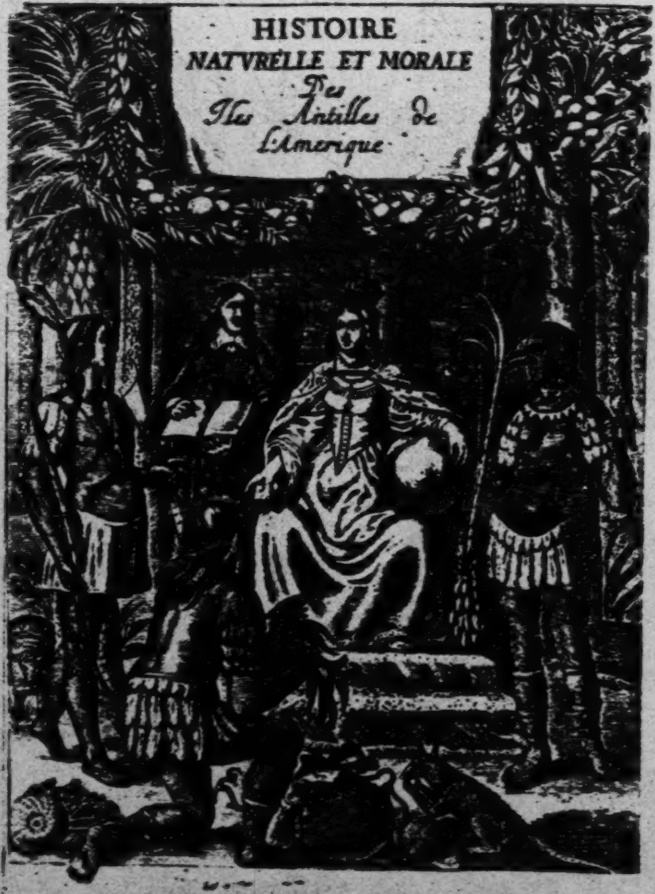
HISTOIRE
NATVRELLE ET MORALE
Des
Iles Antilles de
l'Amerique

Fig. 7 – Early European contact with aboriginal Antillean plants, including the pineapple (Reproduced from Rochefort, 1665, frontispiece). [opposite p. 531]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

Aiphanes sp.
Grigri. — *rókri*.

An unidentified palm of this genus is known from the windward coast of Dominica where it grows at elevations slightly greater than those at which *Acrocomia aculeata* is found. The Dominica grigri may well represent an undescribed species [9].

The Island Caribs put the grigri palm to the same uses as the glou-glou. The trees are chopped down to obtain the edible fruits and nuts.

Specimen citation: 126 (T).

Coccothrinax martinicensis Beccari (?)[10], Webbia 2: 324. 1907.
Latanier. — *elateni, keráta*.

A rather small fan-palm limited to the lower coastal bluffs and cliffs of Dominica and Martinique. Apparently its constant use by the Indians has caused it to become quite scarce in these isles, although it is said to still occur on the bluffs and cliffs below the village of Vieille Case, and on Pointe Daniel in the southeastern part of the island.

Bows were formerly made by the Caribs from the wood of latanier. [411] The broad fan-like leaves are used to cover huts and shelters, [342 412] and are also fashioned into brooms. The septum of the mature petiole is split in two and then is woven, before it becomes dry, into a sort of game basket or sack called *jokom*. [285] The people of Penville (where there are also a few Caribs) also weave bags [252] or sacks (in which grated manioc is pressed) from this petiolar material.

Specimen citation: no authentic herbarium material collected.

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[9] Although species of this genus have been recorded from Martinique and St. Vincent (on the latter island the palm is still very common), authentic material from Dominica has, until now, been lacking. Nevertheless the grigri of Dominica has been mentioned by such writers as BRETON (7), DUTERTRE (15), and OBER (30). Today the Dominican grigri palm is found only in very wild situations. The herbarium material is still insufficient for specific determination.

[10] The herbarium material in hand is not ample for a conclusive determination. However, this is the only species of this genus known from the near vicinity (e. g. Martinique). At the present time other fan palms representing various genera are growing under cultivation near houses in the Carib Reserve, and have probably been introduced via the Botanic Gardens at Roseau.

x 824 **Cocos nucifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1188. 1753.**
Coconut Palm. — *pálma* (from Spanish *palma*).

The coconut palm is grown on all tropical coasts. Its center of origin is controversial although the plant is probably native to the Old World. Hundreds of uses are recorded for various parts of this plant, which is considered the most valuable of all palms. Du Tertre (15) records the species as established in the French Antilles in the seventeenth century.

Coconuts are an important product of Dominica and several [272 estates have been devoted to their culture. The Creoles utilize 262] the green « jelly nuts » as a refreshing drink and the flesh of the [283] mature fruits for food and oil. The husks supply a fiber, coir, employed for local cordage.

[342 Coconuts are cultivated by the Island Caribs who use the large 252] leaves for thatch, and the endosperm as a source of food and oil. The latter is obtained by grating and boiling the flesh of the nuts.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey, Gent. Herb. 4: 375. 1940.
Palmiste, Palmiste franc, Manicol. — *wáse*.

A tall slender palm endemic to Dominica and common throughout moist mountain forests, chiefly at middle elevations.

Often felled by Caribs and other woodsmen for the sake of [264] the palatable coeur-palmiste (« cabbage » or « heart ») which they extract from the cylindrical crown of the tree, and which is eaten either raw or boiled. [342] The leaves of young specimens, folded and plaited, are used for thatch. Ridge-caps (or covers) for dwellings are sometimes made from the wood of this palm by merely [262] splitting the trunk in two. The rotted trunk serves as a refuge for the fat white edible grub (*sémbe*[11]) of the palm beetle (*Calandra palmarum* Fabric.). The reddish colored prop-roots (racines [285 palmiste) of this palm are cut, peeled and scraped, then split 482] into two or three strands and utilised for the manufacture of shoulder carry-alls (*tiála*, literally « a basketry lattice or trellis- [273] work »). The making of palm wine from this species has been

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[11] Although the grub of the palm beetle is more frequent in this palm of the mountain forests, it also lives in the rotten boles of the coastal *tátaho* (*Rhyticocos amara*). Jacquin (33) also records the roasting of this « delicious » insect morsel, which is often eaten raw or roasted by the modern Carib.

824x

claimed (15). However, all recent palm wine has been derived from the glou-glou, *Acrocomia aculeata*. [273]

Specimen citation: 3255, 3494, 3675.

Geonoma dominicana L. H. Bailey, Gent. Herb. 4: 323. 1939.

Geonoma pinnatifrons var. *vaga* Burret, Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 63: 213. 1930.

Yanga.

A palm endemic to Dominica and occasional in mountain rain forests at middle elevations.

The leaves of this small reed-like palm constitute one of the Island Carib's best thatching materials, but the species is not plentiful. The petiole is notched below the leaf blade, and is hooked over the thatching rod; the leaves are then arranged layer above layer until the ridgepole is reached. [342]

Specimen citation: 307, 1987, 2787.

Geonoma hodgeorum L. H. Bailey ex Hodge, The Caribbean Forester 3: 108. 1942.

Yanga.

A small endemic palm found in mossy-forests at the summits of Dominica's highest peaks.

This species of yanga is similar in habit to the preceding species and may also be used for thatching. [342]

Specimen citation: 1430, 2835.

Rhyticocos amara (Jacquin) Beccari, Malph. 1: 350. t. 9. fig. 2. 1886.

Syagrus amara Martius Hist. Nat. Palm. 3 (1845) 291, t. 166, fig. 2.

Overtop Palm. — Coco Nain, Yattabou. — *itaho*.

This coastal species is recorded in the Lesser Antilles from Montserrat to St. Lucia. In Dominica it occurs most abundantly along the windward coast.

The young plaited leaves of the Overtop Palm, like those of *Euterpe dominicana* are used by the Indians for thatch[12]. [342]

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[12] This was very likely the thatching material used in the coastal villages of the Caribs of Guadeloupe at the time of Columbus' second voyage. Chanca

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x824 The « cabbage », though edible, is apparently not eaten by the
[262 Caribs, but in former days it was apparently tapped as a source
223] of a wine (7). The orange-colored fruits were used formerly in
making a fermented drink; while the kernels, though rather bitter,
[262] are often eaten by Carib children. The kernels were also made
[384] into an oil which was mixed with the red color from the seeds
of *Bixa orellana* to form body paint. The oil was probably extracted,
[252] as is coconut oil locally today, by grating and boiling the endosperm of the nuts.

Specimen citation: 3361, 3699.

CYCLANTHACEAE. Cyclanthus Family.

Carludovica spp.

Z'Ailes Mouche, Langue Boeuf [of Breton (7)]. — *munusiali* (« twin leaf »).

Two Lesser Antillean species of this genus — terrestrial *C. insignis* Duchass., and scandent *C. plumieri* Kunth (the latter is more common) — are found in the wet mountain rainforests of Dominica.

[342] Carib hunters often cover their temporary overnight shelters or ajoupas (*kabé*[12]) with the broad bifurcate leaves of these

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records that the Indian houses were made of straw while Ybarra (69), commenting on this use, states that Chanca had made a mistake for (quoting Ybarra): « ... though the houses of the native Indians of the Antilles may have had the appearance of being built of straw, they were most exclusively made of the component parts of the Royal Palm (*Roystonea regia* Cook)... ». If any of the several species of Royal Palm was used as a source of thatch in the Lesser Antilles it was not the Cuban Royal Palm mentioned by Ybarra but rather the Caribbee Royal Palm, *Roystonea oleracea* (Jacq.) Cook. Although described originally from Barbados the natural range of this palm is still unknown. It may have occurred in Guadeloupe and Dominica and is found as an ornamental in Dominica today. It has not been seen by us in unquestionably natural sites nor in numbers suitable for large scale thatching. On the other hand the Overtop Palm is a native coastal palm of these isles and as such would have been more readily available to Indian villages than any other local thatch-yielding palm. However Chanca may have been correct as to straw construction, for the stems of roseau (*Gynerium*) were formerly employed by the Caribs in wattle-work (7).

[12] Kabé is the local pronunciation, carbet the conventional (French) spelling, tabwi, or *kabwi* the Carib word for « shelter » or « hall ».

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

species of z'ailes mouche, which apparently were known as « langue boeuf » in the day of Breton (7). [342]

Specimen citation: 1599, 3249, 3664.

ARACEAE. Arum Family.

Anthurium palmatum (Linnaeus) Kunth, Enum. Pl. 3: 80. 1841.
míbi (generic for « bush-rope »).

« Hard » *míbi*, as this species is called (as opposed to *Monstera pertusa* which is known as « soft » *míbi*), is apparently known only from Dominica where it occurs as a common but weak liana on trunks of trees in moist forests at middle elevations and at lower elevations on the windward coast.

The aërial climbing and binding roots are used by the women [285] for making spiral basketry. After scraping them to remove the cortex, the roots are either dyed yellow by rubbing with a tuber [386] of saffran (*Curcuma longa*) or mauve by rubbing with the moistened leaves of the tree known as tan (*Picramnia pentandra*). From the [278] scraping of the bark of *míbi* together with those from the bottom of the conch shell (patois: lambi; Carib *wátabwi*) a concoction was formerly made to be taken as a cure for yaws (Carib: *yáya*, « prickle »).

Specimen citation: 36 (T), 3205, 3248.

Caladium bicolor (Aiton) Ventenat, Descr. Cels. t. 30. 1800.
Dasheen Marbré, Hale Bois.

An American species of uncertain origin but believed to be a native of Amazonia or the Guianas. It is much cultivated as an [247] ornamental for its beautiful leaves.

This arum is esteemed as a yard or house plant in Dominica and frequently escapes.

The Caribs use the heated rhizome as a poultice for extracting [278 752] splinters.

Specimen citation: 1573.

Colocasia esculenta (Linnaeus) Schott, Melet. 1: 18. 1832.
Caladium colocasia W. F. Wight in Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. 9: 206. 1905.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Dasheen [34]

K 824 Numerous horticultural varieties of this species, whose native home is India and the Orient, are cultivated for their edible corms throughout the tropical and warm temperate regions of the world. The taro of the Pacific Isles is also a horticultural form of this species, and is eaten boiled or baked like potatoes or in the form of a fermented paste called poi. The dasheen is generally [252] prepared, in the West Indies, in the same manner and in as many varied ways as potatoes; in addition a good flour can be made from the tubers, and the young shoots when properly prepared may be eaten as a green vegetable. In Dominica the dasheen is [262] one of the favorite and staple foods of the Creole population and is found in all home provision gardens.

The Carib Indian has in more recent years « borrowed » this plant for his own usage, and grows it for the corms and young shoots.

Specimen citation: 9 (T), 24 (T), 32 (T).

Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacquin) Schott, Melet. 1: 20. 1832.
Dumb Cane. — Sigin, Sijin, Canne Gratter. — *ušere.*

Dumb Cane grows in low, wet places throughout tropical America. The English name refers to the irritating sap which is highly inflammatory to the tongue. In Dominica this species is particularly abundant in the ravines near the settlement of Bataka in the Carib Reserve. Two « varieties » are said to occur, one called [578] « seigin rouge ».

Sigin is said to be pounded by the Carib and placed as a [278] poison in the food of an enemy. As such it is claimed to « kill 757] four generations »! The leaves of sigin rouge are withered by heat and wrapped around dropsical, scarred, or varicose legs in order to « draw out the water », and in the same way are used as a local treatment for yaws.

Specimen citation: 3174.

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[34] It has been shown that this is an anglicised form of « de Chine » which in turn probably derives from « taro or chou de Chine », the full name originally used in the Lesser Antilles for this introduced species. Other names, certain of them applied to the New World tanias (Xanthosoma spp.), also, are used throughout the Antilles. For instance in Martinique dasheen is often called « chou de Chine », while in Guadeloupe it has the name « madère », applied in Dominica and Martinique to one of its varieties.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^x

Monstera pertusa (Linnaeus) de Vriese, Hort. Sparm. Bergens 40. 1839.
mibí (generic for « bush-rope »).

A species found on several of the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica this plant grows as a scandent vine on trees in river valleys especially at lower elevations.

The aerial roots of this species can be peeled without or with very little scraping and since they absorb local vegetable dyes (especially « saffran » and « tan ») more readily than the roots of « hard » *mibí* (*Anthurium palmatum*) the plant is known as « soft » *mibí*. For this reason the roots of *Monstera* are preferred for small decorative baskets although they are less durable than roots of *Anthurium*. The large perforated leaves of this plant are used also by the Caribs as a poultice to relieve pain. [285] [278]

Specimen citation: 3006.

Philodendron oxycardium Schott, Syn. Aroid. 82. 1856.
Corde Molle.

This scandent arum ranges in the West Indies from Puerto Rico to St. Vincent; it is also recorded from Guatemala. The species is common in the forests of Dominica at lower (windward coast) and middle elevations.

Caribs use the woody climbing stems of corde molle as sturdy handles for certain types of baskets. [285]

Specimen citation: 3262.

Xanthosoma spp.
Yautia. — Chou, Tanier, Tania[15]. — *ukho* (w), *táia* (m) (the same word in Tupi). — *táya* (m); *ukhí* (w).

Several species of this tropical American genus have been much cultivated in the West Indies and South America since pre-Columbian times. The tubers of *X. atrovirens* Koch & Bouché

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[15] These are the most frequent names used in Dominica, but elsewhere in the West Indies the several species and varieties of *Xanthosoma* are known by various names (8) — yautia and malanga in the Spanish speaking islands; chou caraïbe (Martinique), malanga (Guadeloupe); and taniers, tanias, tayas, cocos, or eddoes in the British West Indies. Some of these names are applied also to the dasheen. Yautia is a Taino (Haitian) name for *Xanthosoma*; tanier is a corruption of the Carib *táia*.

824 The tubers of X. atrovirens Koch & Bouché

[262] and *X. violaceum* Schott constitute one of the staple starchy foods of Dominica while the young leaves of *X. brasiliense* (Desv.) Engl. are one of the prime ingredients of the famed «calalu» soup, a popular Creole dish.

[252] The Caribs cultivate tanias both as a food and green. When prepared as a green the «heart» (the unopened leaves) is boiled and eaten. Other authors (7) (15) mention a red-ribbed leaf variety, [780 726] «chou poivré», whose juice the Caribs rubbed on themselves as a charm when going to war. Leaves of the red-ribbed variety, [278] known today as chou froidure (pronounced «chou fwedi»), are made into an infusion used against chills; and the same variety is an ingredient in another tea discussed under *Myrcia citrifolia*.

Specimen citation: 2466.

BROMELIACEAE. PINEAPPLE FAMILY.

Ananas comosus (Linnaeus) Merrill, Interpr. Rumph. Amb. 133. 1917.

Ananas sativus Schultes f. ex R. & S. Syst. 7: 1283. 1830.

Ananas ananas Cockerell, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 19: 776. 1897.

Ananas. Pineapple. — *ídiawa* («prickly»): *kuráwa* (fiber-yielding variety).

A native of Brazil, the pineapple has been widely cultivated for its fruits in the tropics and subtropics of both the New and the Old World. Strong white fibers, which are utilized for cloth in various parts of the world, are obtained from the leaves (22). The Barama River Caribs make an alcoholic drink from the grated pulp. First mention of the pineapple is by Peter MARTYR who records its discovery by Columbus on Guadeloupe in 1493 (21).

[262 273 278] Several types are cultivated by the Caribs of Dominica. The fruit is eaten; a fermented beverage is made from the peeled skins steeped in water; while the fruit itself, as well as this drink, is considered to be good for urinary complaints. The small, [517] green, immature fruit or its juice is, on the other hand, well known to these aborigines as an abortive agent.

[283] La pite (Carib: *kuráwa*[14]), an important cultivated fiber plant

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[14] Dr. L. B. Smith has determined that la pite of Dominica is not a species of *Bromelia* as was at first thought but actually a species of *Ananas*, most

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x 624

[441
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45]

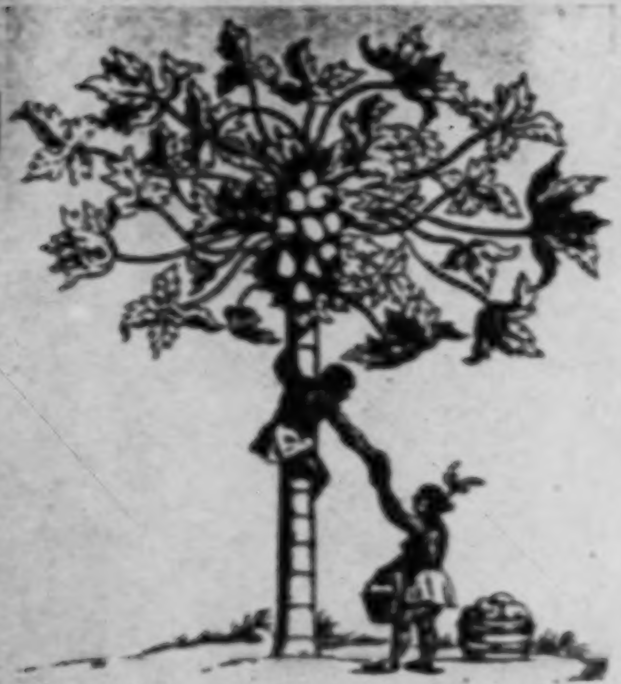

Fig. 8

[252
412]

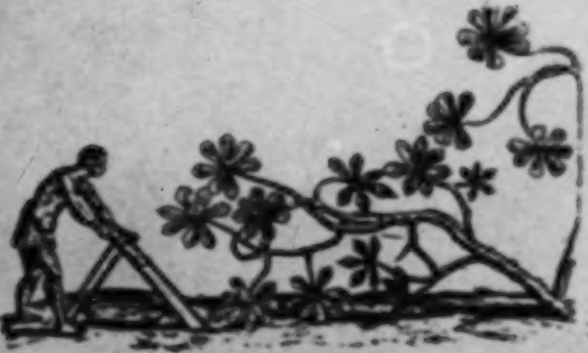

Fig. 9

Historical ethnobotany in the Antilles. — Fig. 8 – Collecting papayas, *Carica papaya*. — Fig. 9 – Grating roots from the cassava plant, *Manihot esculenta* (Both figures reproduced from Rochefort, 1665).

[Opposite p. 538]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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133
137
[342]

Fig. 10

[491]

Fig. 11

CONTEMPORARY CARIB SITES AND LANDSCAPES IN DOMINICA. — Fig. 10 – Carib frame dwellings near the Crayfish River in the Reserve. — Fig. 11 – Footbridge over the Pegoua River near its mouth.

[opposite p. 539]

824ˣ
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the Dominica Caribs, is included here. The plant is to be found
owing in most Carib dooryard gardens. Leaves of la pite are
it for half their length. Then a strong cord attached at con-
nient height to a tree is twisted into a loop around one of the
it segments and pulled tight. The other end of the leaf is
und around a short thick stick held with both hands. A strong
ady tug on the latter disengages the leaf fiber. The other
ment is treated in like manner, and finally the unsplit half of
leaf as a whole (the disengaged fiber being now used to wrap
ound the stick). After being dried in the sun the strong white
er (up to four feet long) is spun on the leg or thigh into any
kness of fishing line that is required. Most of it is twine (i. e.
ly) but 3 and even 5-ply are sometimes made. La pite is used
o to make thread which is always strengthened before use by
ining with mani (see discussion of mani under *Symphonia glo-
lifera*). Such thread is employed for sewing the edging of larou-
n (*Ischnosiphon Arouma*) baskets, and for making the little
ds worn by father and new-born child as a protective charm
ensure the latter from suffering possible ill consequences of
enuous work undertaken by the father.

[751
846]

Specimen citation: 101 (T), 3306. Both specimens represent
pite.

Bromelia karatas Linnaeus, *Sp. Pl.* 285. 1753.

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guoin, Karatas. — *karáta* (w).

Pinguoin is known from the Antilles and occurs on the con-
ent from Mexico to Colombia and Brazil. The plant occurs in
minica chiefly at lower elevations in the drier thickets of the
dward coast.

---

ly a specially grown fibrous form of edible *Ananas comosus*. Plants of la
differ from the common pineapple in having longer leaves with fewer
more widely spaced marginal prickles; moreover the fruit is small (no
r than one's fist) and is said to be indigestible. Compared with the fibers
pite those contained in the leaves of the ordinary pineapple are considered
the Caribs very weak and therefore cannot be prepared for twine. Pittier
) however states that the fibers of pineapple leaves are « fine, strong, and
great value ». The Krana grass, grown by the Barama River Caribs of
iana, is possibly identical with la pite. Krana grass is a source of fiber used
the manufacture of bow strings, fish lines, and decorative ligatures for
legs.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X 829 [263] The acid fruit of this species is edible and refreshing but is apparently only known and used locally by Carib hunters.

Specimen citation: 3357.

Pitcairnia gracilis Mez in DeCandolle, Monogr. Phan. 9: 407. 1896.

Batard La Pite.

A Lesser Antillean species found in Dominica on rocky semi-wooded spots at lower to middle elevations.

[278 164] [844] [777] The fine, fluffy, white scales which cover the lower surfaces of the grass-like leaves are mixed with honey and used by the Carib as a remedy for the common infant's mouth disease called « thrush ». The same mixture is employed at birth as a healing agent on the cut umbilical cord. The plant itself is carried when travelling as a good luck « chance ».

Specimen citation: 1340, 3054, 3496.

Pitcairnia spicata (Lamarck) Mez var. **sulphurea** (Andrews) Mez in DeCandolle, Monogr. Phan. 9: 383. 1896.

Pitcairnia sulphurea Andrews Bot. Repos. 4 (1802) pl. 249.

Batard La Pite.

A species of basaltic outcrops at the summits of mountain peaks of Dominica and St. Vincent.

[278] The leaves of this species are also utilised by the Caribs in the manner discussed under *Pitcairnia gracilis*.

Specimen citation: 319, 1950.

LILIACEAE. Lily Family.

Smilax guianensis Vitman, Summ. Plant. 5: 422. 1791.

Smilax macrophylla Willdenow, Sp. Pl. ed. 4, 2: 786. 1806.

Bamboche.

A strong vine of the Lesser Antilles.

[229 278] Caribs employ the withe-like stems in the making of snares, while an infusion of the roots in cold water is believed to be a cure for gonorrhoea.

Specimen citation: 3269.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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AMARYLLIDACEAE. Amaryllis Family.

Furcraea tuberosa Aiton filius, Hort. Kew ed. 2, 2: 303. 1811
Langue Boeuf [77].

A large agave-like, succulent herb which is found in the West Indies from Hispaniola to Grenada. In Dominica it grows most commonly at lower elevations in thickets or on dry coastal cliffs.

The Caribs use the leaf fibers of langue boeuf which are obtained by retting with running water for several days. After this softening bath the fibers are extracted by beating the leaves on a plank with a wooden mallet, and during the process water is used to wash away the vegetable matter. In addition the root is emulsified to make a « tea » which is drunk for « echauffement » (gonorrhea). [283] [278]

Specimen citation: 3463.

Pancratium speciosum Linnaeus f. ex Salisbury, Act. Soc. Linn. Lond. 2: 73. t. 12. 1794.

Pancratium caribaeum Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I.(1864) 583, as to the Dominica plant.

Hymenocallis speciosa Salisbury in Trans. Hort. Soc. 1 (1812) 348.

Spider Lily, White Lily. — Ognon Dli, Ognon Gli (from the French: « ognon de lys »). — *kubéeke flewe* (« double »? « flower »).

The exact range of this Lesser Antillean species of Spider lily is uncertain but the plant grows wild in Dominica chiefly in moist soils at or near the mouths of streams.

Caribs express the juice of the large bulbs of ognon gli and use the liquid as an emetic. [278]

Specimen citation: 2720, 2951.

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[77] The « Langue Boeuf » of Breton (?) probably pertains to the genus Carludovica.

DIOSCOREACEAE. YAM FAMILY.

x 824 **Dioscorea spp.**
Yam.

A number of species and varieties of the true yams are planted throughout the West Indies for their edible tuberous rootstocks. Some of these species like the greater yam (*Dioscorea alata* L.), the yellow Guinea yam (*D. cayenensis* Lam.), the white Guinea yam (*D. rotundata* Poir.) and the lesser yam (*D. esculenta* (Lour.) Burkill) are of Old World origin, having been introduced since the Conquest; one, the cush-cush (*D. trifida* L. f.), is a native of tropical America.

[241 262] The inhabitants of Dominica, both Creole and Carib, cultivate yams for food to a considerable extent, the varieties of cush-cush (Carib: *ádmai* (m), *kúeu* (w)) being especially popular. For a further local use of the yellow Guinea yam (called in Dominica « yam jaune ») see discussion under *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 111 (T), 3377.

Rajania cordata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1032. 1753.

Rajania pleioneura Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 588. (1864).

Rajania sintenisii Uline in Urban Symb. Ant. 3 281. (1902).

Ouacoua. — *bíhi, haiárali.*

A common twining vine found throughout the West Indies. This species is plentiful in some localities in Dominica, and is found from lower to middle elevations.

[262] [241] The swollen rootstock of wawa is the only wild root food much used, but never cultivated, by the Island Caribs, who claim its cultivation would cause their family to die out!

Specimen citation: 3216.

IRIDACEAE. IRIS FAMILY.

Eleutherine bulbosa (Miller) Urban, Fedde Repert. 15: 305. 1918.

Cipura plicata Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 589. 1864.

Galatea bulbosa Britton, Mem. Brookl. Bot. Gard. 1: 37. 1918. Chalotte Caraibe.

824x

An acaulescent herb widely distributed in the West Indies and tropical South America. The plant is to be found in Dominica on open grassy slopes at lower elevations.

The tunicated bulbs are said to be eaten by the older generation presumably as we do those of onions. Also, a decoction made from the bulb is taken by women at the time of their menopause or to relieve painful or irregular menstruation. [262] [278 841]

Specimen citation: 3 (T), 3188.

Trimezia martinicensis (Jacquin) Herbert, Bot. Reg. 30. misc. 88. 1844.

Cipura martinicensis Kunth, Nov. Gen. & Sp. 1 (1816) 321.

Coco Chat.

This little yellow flower is to be found on grassy slopes throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The corms of this species possess an acrid yellow juice. They are grated by the Carib and mixed with other unknown ingredients. This mixture is then kept by an individual on his person as a charm to ensure success if he gets into a fight. [789]

Specimen citation: 3304.

MUSACEAE. Banana Family.

Heliconia bihai Linnaeus Mant. 2: 211. 1771.

Bihai bihai Griggs in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 31: 445. (1904). as to source of name only.

Wild Plantain. — Balisier. — *baliri*. (cf. *baliru*).

This species with bicolored bracts is probably to be found throughout the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it occurs, often in colonies, on wet open slopes or along streambanks at middle and higher elevations.

Balisier leaves are used by the Caribs to cover temporary shelters in the woods (ajoupas), as waterproof lining material between the inner and outer layer of certain basket types (larouman paniers) in areas where cachibou (*Calathea lutea*) is not available, and as a « paper » substitute to wrap up fish, game, etc. Leaves of balisier are also utilized to wrap up, *a*) fish for roasting [342] [415 252] x 824 in fire; *b*) titiri (a tiny fish) for steaming in a closed pot, *c*) sweetened [465 meal of manioc or maize for boiling in water to make a kind of 252] pudding. The midribs of the leaves are often sun-dried, cut to equal lengths and bound together at their ends parallel to one [573] another so as to form roll-up mats used to sleep on. The petioles [285] are often cut to form temporary braces used in making baskets. The leaves as well as the sap of the stem are employed as an [278] unguent for burns, inflammation, etc. Balisier leaf heart together with water obtained from the hole of a pois doux (*Inga*) tree is used in the local treatment of erysipelas. The watery sap of balisier, mixed with the juicy pulp of the genip (*Genipa americana*) and with the ashes of burnt panicles of roseau (*Gynerium sagittatum*), is used as an unguent applied to yaws (framboesia). A red dye [386] is said to have been made from the blue fruits.

Specimen citation: 1066, 2636.

Heliconia caribaea Lamarck, Encycl. 1: 426. 1783.

Heliconia bihai sensu authors (24).

Wild Plantain. — Balisier. — *balíri* (cf. *baléra*).

The commonest of the wild plantains generally confused even in current botanical literature with the preceding (24), but widely distributed throughout all the wet tropical regions bordering on the Caribbean. In Dominica colonies may be found in habitats similar to those occupied by the preceding species.

H. caribaea is put to the same use by the Caribs as is *H. bihai*.

Specimen citation: 3416, 3417.

Musa paradisiaca Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1043. 1753.

Plantain. Banana. — *baléra, balátana* (cf. Spanish plátano).

Plantains originated in southeastern Asia but are cultivated in the tropics throughout the world. They are said to have been introduced into Hispaniola about 1500 and are recorded from Dominica in 1595 (21). Since the latter date they have grown to be a staple cultivated food in Dominica where they often persist after cultivation.

The Island Caribs formerly pounded and dried the fruits to [252] form a sort of paste or concentrated food taken on voyages and consumed after mixing with water. Today plantains form one of

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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the chief native foodstuffs. They are usually boiled, rarely roasted, [252] but in either case always in the green condition (unripe). The «popote» (i.e. the inflorescence bud) of this species or of the [278] banana is crushed and its juice is applied as a cure for ulcers. Like those of the balisiers (*Heliconia* spp.) the leaves of both [415] plantains and bananas are much used as wrapping material.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Musa paradisiaca Linnaeus subsp. **sapientum** (Linnaeus) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 2: 692. 1891.
Banana. — Figue. — **bakálu.**

The distribution of the banana is identical with that of the [439] plantain.

Bananas are hardly as important as plantains in the Caribs' diet, [262] but they are an important commercial export crop in Dominica. [272] A drink was formerly made from the fruit but today it is generally eaten ripe out of hand.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

ZINGIBERACEAE. Ginger Family.

Aframomum granum-paradisi (Hooker) K. Schumann in Engler, Pflanzenreich 20: 213. 1904.
Grains-of-Paradise Amomum. — Poivre Guinée.

This African plant was originally described from Sierra Leone. Various species of this fragrant-leaved genus have pungent seeds which, in the Middle Ages, were a popular substitute for pepper. Today they are still used medicinally and as a flavoring agent (22).

Caribs frequently cultivate poivre guinée near their dwellings [263] for they utilize the seeds as a spice. The leaves, considered to be [515] a charm, are rubbed on the body when bathing and are consti- [78] tuents of a ritual bath (described under *Ocimum micranthum*) for unlucky canoes. A similar bath is given to their hunting dogs. [231] A tea is made from the leaves for stomach ache and the seeds [278] are put into rum as a «chauffe» to excite dogs.

Specimen citation: 121 (T), 3304.

x824

Alpinia speciosa (Wendland) K. Schumann, Fl. Kaiser-Wilhelmsl. 29. 1887.

Languas speciosa Small, Fl. Southeast. U. S. 307, 1375. (1913).
Shell Flower. — Lavandre.

A plant of the East Indies, long cultivated for ornament in [247] the West Indies and often persisting after cultivation. Lavandre has become naturalised in various parts of Dominica, particularly at lower elevations.

[278] A « tea » made by the Caribs from the leaves and flowers of this species is supposedly efficacious against indigestion or « wind in the stomach ». Further uses of this species as ingredients in [515] ritual baths are described under *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 23 (T), 3211.

Curcuma longa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2. 1753.
Turmeric. — Saffran.

A native of the East Indies, where it is grown for its tubers which form an ingredient of curry powders, saffran has been [386] introduced into the West Indies and is generally cultivated by the Dominica Indian as a dye plant.

The Caribs use the carrot-like tubers to give a yellow stain to weaving materials obtained from mibi (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*) and other lianas. Certain round baskets [285] made by the Indian women are often woven in two colors, yellow (from *Curcuma longa*) and mauve (from *Picramnia pentandra*).

Specimen citation: 8 (T), 3330.

Hedychium coronarium Koenig ex Retz. Obs. 3: 73. 1783.
Ginger Lily. — Gingembre Douleur, Canne Riviere.

This species, of southeastern Asia, has become naturalised in moist places on many of the West Indian islands.

The Caribs of Dominica employ the leaves to make a « tea » used [278] for fever, while the roots enter into the manufacture of a concoction which is a supposed cure for any internal pain. A chopped up decoction of the plant in water is also drunk as a « cure » for gonorrhea. For another use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 34B (T).

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[373]

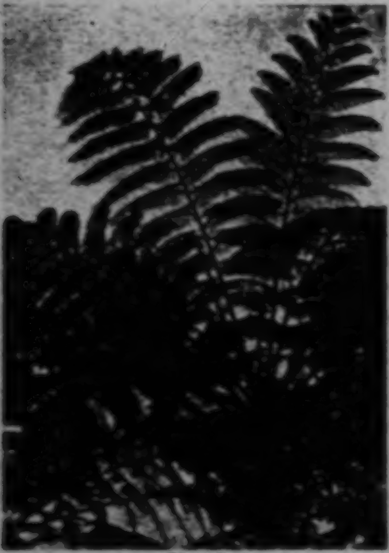

Fig. 12

Fig. 13

[411]

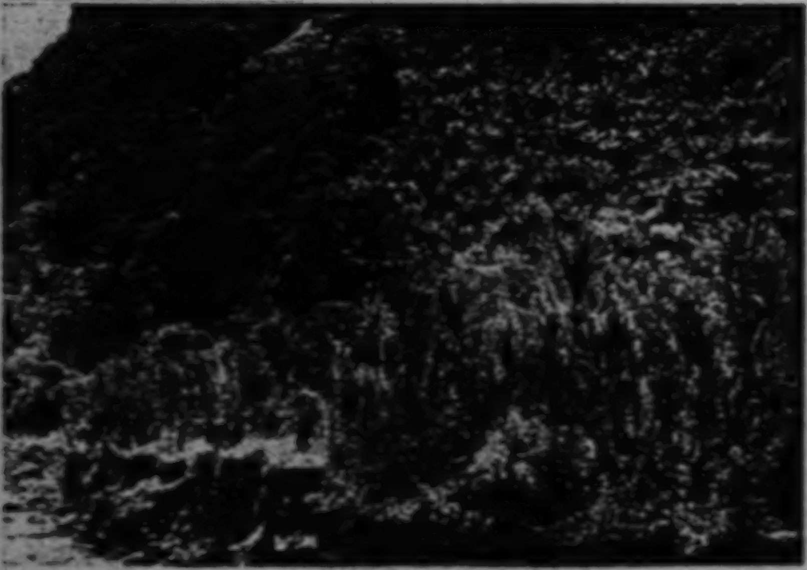

Fig. 14

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 12 – Common tree ferns, *Cyathea arborea*, a charm plant whose dried caudices are a source of tinder. Habit. — Fig. 13 – A single frond of the same. — Fig. 14 – Wild cane, *Gynerium sagittatum* (right foreground), a basketry plant formerly important as a source of arrow shafts.

[opposite p. 546]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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[342]

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

[285]

Fig. 17

Fig. 18

DOMINICA CARIB PLANTS, A TRIO OF PALMS. — Fig. 15 – The glou-glou, *Acrocomia aculeata*, formerly utilized as a «wine» palm by the Caribs, with some of its edible fruits (insert). — Fig. 16 – Specimens of a species of yaya, *Geonoma hodgeorum*, typical of a thatch-yielding palm, from Morne Trois Pitons. — Fig. 17 – Flowering stalks and edible heart or «cabbage» (center) of the Dominica palmiste, *Euterpe dominicana*. — Fig. 18 – Prop roots (racines palmiste) of the Dominica palmiste, used in the weaving of shoulder baskets. [opposite p. 547]

CANNACEAE. Canna Family.

Canna spp.
Maraca, Indian Shot, Canna. — Toluman, Tuluman.

This genus is widespread in tropical America and has a number of local economic uses. The large leaves are used as crude wrapping paper and in Venezuela the rhizome is reported as the source of diuretic concoctions or emollient poultices (40). *Canna edulis*, a native of South America where it is known as *achira*, supplies edible rhizomes which are common in the highland Indian markets of the Andes where the species has been a common food plant since Inca times (68); elsewhere it is cultivated under the name Queensland arrowroot.

Several species of cannas occur in Dominica and these probably include *C. indica* L., *C. lambertii* Lindl., and possibly *C. edulis* Ker. However, the taxonomy of the genus is so troublesome as to make all determinations tentative.

In Dominica cannas are grown for food or ornament and for this reason are always seen in food or flower gardens and seldom if ever in the wild. Toluman is cultivated by the Caribs as a substitute for West Indian arrowroot (*Maranta arundinacea*) to which it is sometimes preferred for the making of starch because its rhizomes are less brittle than are those of Maranta, and so they may be grated instead of pounded. [247 262]

Specimen citation: 113 (T), 1266, 1523, 2557, 3960.

MARANTACEAE. Arrowroot Family.

Calathea allouia (Aublet) Lindley, Bot. Reg. 14: t. 1210. 1828.
Topitambour.

A pubescent herb of the West Indies and tropical South America.

The clustered tubers on the roots of topitambour resemble small potatoes. When boiled and salted they are considered a good food by both the Caribs and Creoles of Dominica. [262]

Specimen citation: 138 (T).

824 **Calathea lutea** (Aublet) G. F. W. Meyer, Primit. Fl. Essequeb. 10. 1818.

Calathea discolor G. F. W. Meyer, loc. cit. 7.

Cachibou. — *karíba* (« sharp-pointed »).

This lowland species ranges in rainforest areas in the West Indies from Puerto Rico to Trinidad, also throughout Central America and into Amazonian South America. Cachibou is infrequent in Dominica because of the lack of good growing sites, but it forms as elsewhere small colonies along river banks.

Cachibou possesses one of the most durable leaves used by
342 the Caribs for thatch, and its employment for this purpose was noted many years ago by JACQUIN (33). The leaves are exposed to the sun after cutting until they close, when they are folded lengthwise and tied with lianas over a split roseau (*Gynerium sagittatum*) stem which is used as a thatching-rod. When completed the leaves overlap one another forming thick layers, and so produce a tile-like appearance. The waxy leaves of cachibou serve to render
285 Carib baskets (paniers) water-proof; waterproofing is accomplished by placing layers of leaves as a lining between the inner and outer component parts of the paniers. The petioles are also dried and split and used like roseau or larouman in Carib basketry.

Specimen citation: 3329, 3505.

Ischnosiphon arouma (Aublet) Koernicke, Bull. Soc. Nat. Moscow 35: 88. 1862.

Larouman. — *dálwana, dálié* (m), *walóma, waróma, wáhalú* (w).

A species found in the Lesser Antilles as far north as Guadeloupe and on the South American continent south to the Amazon, a range coinciding very well, at least in the Antilles, with the earlier concentrations of Carib tribes. Larouman possibly was brought to the Antilles by the Island Carib. In Dominica larouman occurs in wet ravines or forest glades and along shaded river banks at lower and middle elevations in what often appears to be a semicultivated state.

In the Guianas this plant is known to the Indians as *walrwa*, *walrwa*, and *itiriti*, and its preparation for and uses in basketry
245 are very similar to those described below. Larouman is one of the most important basketry plants of the Island Caribs, and

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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its use by these Indians has been recorded by several authors (7) (15). 824x
285

The stems, cut when they attain 12-15 feet in length[18], are split into two or four segments and most of the pith is removed. Tied in bundles of from seventy to one hundred stems, they are carried down to the coast where they are spread in the sun to dry; during this process they turn a reddish brown. If black larouman is required, the reddened stems are steeped for a few days in «mud holes» by a river. Such stems may be scraped when a white color is required; thus are provided three shades for the weaving of various traditional designs. Before use the segments are re-split into two or three strands each with the thumb-nail and the remaining pith is removed by passing each strand under a knife-blade held between index finger and thumb. Finally, each strand is split again, but this time parallel to its flat surfaces, yielding an outer layer or «skin» and an inner layer or «mam» (from the French «membre»). The operation is accomplished by breaking the butt end of a complete strand, seizing the «mam» layer between the teeth, and peeling off the «skin» with a steady pull of the right hand, the hold with the teeth being shifted up the strand from time to time as the peeling proceeds. The sharp edges of the outer layer are subsequently smoothed off with a knife. The smooth, harder, strands of the outer layer are utilised for the outside layers of larouman baskets, while the «mam», which is softer and of course white, is reserved for the inner layer or lining of the basket. Thus each Carib travel basket or panier (*bakare* or *yamáti* in Carib) consists of four woven parts: a receptacle with 1) «mam» and 2) «skin» between which layers of broad leaves (of cachibou, balisier, bananas, etc.) are sewn to make the basket rainproof; and a cover with 3) «mam» and 4) «skin» constructed in the same fashion as the receptacle. The two parts («mam» and «skin») of both receptacle and cover are bound together by an edging of roseau stem (*Gynerium sagit-*

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[18] A smaller «variety» attains a height of only four to five feet, and cannot be used except for small articles. Botanical specimens of this «variety» have not been collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N.E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X824 tatum) sewn with la pite thread (*Ananas comosus*) which has been
285 rubbed with *mási*[10] in order to strengthen it.

Besides «paniers caraïbes» (travel baskets) the Caribs weave larouman into mats, fans, square and round cassava sifters («hebiset» — the patois word has been taken from the Carib), cassava squeezers (patois: «coeleuvre», the long stocking-like device; *mátapí* (w) and rukuma (m) in Carib), Carib tables (*mátutu*), finger traps (a child's toy), «paniers okoakae» (hexagonal open-work baskets), and «porte manteaux» (a flattened form of the travel basket, carried by a cord from the shoulder).

Specimen citation: 3196, 3418.

Maranta arundinacea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 2. 1753.
X824 *Maranta indica* Tussac, Fl. Ant. 1 183. (1808).
Arrowroot. L'Envers. — *tílala* («that which pierces»?).

Arrowroot is a native of tropical South America, but it has been widely cultivated for its starchy tubers and is to be found naturalized in many tropical lands. The species was probably brought into the Antilles in pre-Columbian times, possibly by the Caribs to whom it is an important economic plant. Sloane records that the plant was carried from Dominica (an Island Carib stronghold) to Barbados and from that island to Jamaica (11) (21). Many varieties of arrowroot are still known to the Caribs of Dominica. Since the plant is valuable in their lives as a source of food and magic, it is apparent that the species has been cultivated by them for a long period on the island. Although arrowroot is said by some to occur wild in the forests, all plants seen and collected by the authors have been growing spontaneously on waste ground or in a semicultivated state, often close to Carib huts or gardens.

Varieties of arrowroot known to the Dominica Caribs include l'envers blanc, l'envers rouge, l'envers caraïbe (or l'envers tête chien), l'envers coulibri, l'envers calumet, l'envers six mois, and l'envers tourner virer. These vary from those which, like l'envers coulibri and l'envers six mois, have small round tubers likened

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[10] *Mási* is a black resin of unknown origin which exists in a lumpy form. It is discussed under *Symphonia globulifera*.

respectively to the head of a coulibri (a local hummingbird) and 824^{x}
to topitambours (*Calathea allouia*); to l'envers blanc which has white tubers about two feet long. The tubers of l'envers rouge are redskinned and thick but not more than nine or ten inches long while those of l'envers caraïbe are up to three feet long but thin with the peculiarity of sometimes coiling upon themselves at the end. The leaves of all these varieties, although similar in form, vary considerably in size (3-10 inches long, 1.5-5 inches broad), and in the presence or absence of red coloring on the petioles, sheaths, and bases.

L'envers blanc and l'envers rouge are the only varieties cultivated for the alimentary value of their starch, and of these [262]
the former is more common. Arrowroot starch is preferred locally
instead of milk (supposed to give worms!) as a food for young [334]
children, and even breast-fed infants are given arrowroot as a [353]
supplementary food from their second or third day of life.

The pounded tuber of any of the varieties, mixed with the [278]
black wax of the native stingless bee (*Melipona*), is applied to sores and infected wounds. This poultice was formerly used on wounds inflicted by poisoned arrows hence the plant's English name, arrowroot.

Although all varieties of l'envers are supposedly « good » for 824^{x}
various accidents and circumstances of man's life (in the magical 781
sense) the one known as l'envers caraïbe or l'envers *tête chien* [illegible]
is considered especially efficacious as a powerful Carib charm, and is mentioned in several of the Indians' legends. This plant is said to have been « given » to the old time Caribs by the « Maître Tête Chien » (a mythical, anthropomorphic chief of all tête chien snakes), who taught the Caribs how to use it. The crushed tuber rubbed on the body when bathing or a little of the starch (obtained by washing the grated tuber and allowing it to settle) held in the mouth is said to confer on the user power over other people.

Magical rites are connected both with its planting and with the digging of the plant, but as a charm it must not be observed,

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[illegible] The variety takes its name from the local tête chien or boa (*Constrictor orophias*) because the tuber of the plant grows straight down into the ground for two or three feet and then often coils on itself in a manner reminiscent of the snake.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 789 tended, or dug by the women of the tribe. L'envers tête chien must be « paid »; consequently the modern Carib places a silver piece of money in the hole when planting it. When none of this plant is found growing wild the following supposed method of « planting » it is employed. The would-be « planter » goes to the woods and finds a tête chien snake. He severs the snake's head with one blow without the snake being aware of danger (« were it to hiss but once it would be useless to proceed »). A hole is then dug and the head is buried without touching it by hand or removing it from the spot where it fell. A month or so later this charm (l'envers tête chien) is found on the spot where the head was buried. Before removing the charm, one must « pay it » (the snake's spirit?) by burning a little powdered tobacco.

Specimen citation: 7 (T).

PIPERACEAE. Pepper Family.

824 **Peperomia pellucida** (Linnaeus) Humboldt, Bonpland, & Kunth, Nov. Gen. 1: 64. 1815.

Z'Herbe Courresse.

An insignificant herb widely distributed in the American tropics, also in Africa and the East Indies. In Dominica the species [262] grows most frequently upon moist walls or in crannies of wet rocks. It is eaten locally as a potherb.

[759] Z'Herbe courresse is pounded by the Caribs and is then used as a poultice to relieve sore throat.

Specimen citation: 394, 411, 412.

Piper spp.

Doctor Bush. Malbruk[21], Mal L'Estomac.

All local species of this genus (including common *P. aequale* Vahl and *P. dilatatum* L. C. Rich.) are known to the natives of Dominica as doctor bush.

[789] Because the Caribs consider these plants to be charms, the leaves are employed to rub the body when bathing or as ingre-

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[21] *Gonzalagunia* [illegible] Triana is also known as « malbruk » in Dominica.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

dients in ritual baths. A ritual bath given to those suffering [785] from colds utilises as ingredients the leaves of species of this [755] genus plus those of three other unidentified plants, pomme coolie, bakza, and fougère rouge (the latter apparently a fern). Hunting dogs are similarly rubbed when bathed in order to make them [23] « good » at the chase. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 27 (T), 110 (T), 436, 3252, 3257.

Pothomorphe peltata (Linnaeus) Miquel, Comm. Phyt. 37. 1840.
Monkey's Hand. — Mal Tête.

A large herb of the American tropics, found in Dominica in damp places at lower and middle elevations.

The large suborbicular leaves of mal tête are heated by the [278] Caribs and applied to the head as a cure for headache.

Specimen citation: 144 (T), 427.

MORACEAE. Mulberry Family.

Cecropia peltata Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10 1286. 1759.
Trumpet-Tree, Trumpet-Wood (8). — Bois Canon.

A species of the West Indies and northern South America, to be found generally in moist forests and ravines at middle elevations.

The Island Caribs often fashion the trunks of bois canon into [58] light catamarans, known locally as « piperie ». The pounded [278] « heart » (the unopened leaves in their stipular sheaths), mixed with salt, is applied as a poultice to wounds and sores.

Specimen citation: 125 (T), 632, 3166, 3663.

Ficus spp.
Figuier. — Isadet.

A large tropical genus of trees including the widely cultivated fig. At least half a dozen species, certain of them large trees, occur in Dominica.

The larger spreading species of figuier (including *F. urbaniana* [776] Warb.) are considered by the Caribs to be the homes of the

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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[772] [755] «tree-spirit» and for this reason — and as with *Ceiba pentandra* and *Mammea americana* L. — these trees are never felled or otherwise disturbed for fear of making the spirit angry. Leaves of figuier are one of many ingredients (see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*) in a ritual bath given for any sickness caused by piai.

Specimen citation: 1587, 2368, 3271 (all representing *Ficus urbaniana*).

LORANTHACEAE. Mistletoe Family.

Psittacanthus martinicensis Eichler in Martius, Fl. Bras. 5 (2): 26. 1868.

Capitaine Bois, Maître Bois, Roi Bois.

A hemiparasite of Martinique and Dominica. In Dominica the species frequently parasitises mango trees. The local names also are applied to other loranthaceous species.

[755] Caribs utilize the leaves of roi bois as one of the many ingredients (for others see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*) of a ritual bath given as a cure of any sickness caused by piai.

Specimen citation: 631.

POLYGONACEAE. Buckwheat Family.

Coccoloba ascendens Duss ex Lindau, Monogr. Cocc., Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 13: 184. 1890.

Liane Barril, Cercle Barril.

A liana found on several of the Caribbee islands and also recorded from Brazil.

[278] [222] [285] According to Duss (14) an infusion of the root is used in the French Antilles as a depurative for venereal diseases. Fishermen in these islands also use the flexible stems in the making of fish pots and baskets.

The Caribs of Dominica employ the sturdy stems for edging various types of baskets.

Specimen citation: 2334.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824√

Coccoloba uvifera (Linnaeus) Jacquin, Enum. 19. 1760.
Sea Grape. — Raisin Bord-de-mer. — *bálibai* (m), *aliú* (w).

The sea grape is a widespread littoral species of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The hard timber has various uses but at one time was used [411] by the Caribs for war clubs, and the like. From the scraped bark [314] is obtained a gum which dries hard and which was formerly employed as a varnish on painted and split stems of larouman (*Ischnosiphon arouma*). The fruits are eaten and in the past were [272] crushed in water to make a beverage.

Specimen citation: 1665, 3316.

CHENOPODIACEAE. Goosefoot Family.

Chenopodium ambrosioides Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 219. 1753.
Chenopodium anthelminticum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 220. 1753.
Wormseed. — Semen Contra.

Wormseed is a strong-scented annual plant widely distributed in the temperate and tropical regions of both the Old and New World.

A « tea » made from its leaves is drunk by the Carib as a [278] beverage or is used to deworm children. The leaves are also one constituent of a ritual bath given to the mother after childbirth [344] (see *Ocimum micranthum*).

Specimen citation: 3364.

AMARANTHACEAE. Amaranth Family.

Amaranthus spp.
Epinard, L'Epinard.

Weedy species of this genus are common throughout the world, and many can be employed as potherbs. At least two species, *Amaranthus viridis* L. and *Amaranthus spinosus* L., are so used in Dominica (31).

The Carib Indians cook and eat these plants as green vegetables. [263]

Specimen citation: no herbarium specimens collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

PHYTOLACCACEAE. Pokeweed Family.

I 834 **Petiveria alliacea** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 342. 1753.
Kudjuruk. — *émeradiema, lemáre.*

A widespread weedy plant found in Florida, the West Indies, and continental tropical America. Although common in Dominica especially at lower elevations, this species is cultivated by the Caribs chiefly near their houses.

[78] [75] [271 849] The Indians consider kudjuruk to be both a charm and a medicine. The plant is used, together with honteuse (*Mimosa pudica*) and son marqué (*Cassia bicapsularis*) as an ingredient in a ritual bath taken at the time of the new moon. It is also rubbed on the body as a protection against evil spells. Prepared as « tea » it is considered an antidote to poisoning, as well as an aid to women in parturition. For further uses of kudjuruk in ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 38C (T), 3194.

Phytolacca rivinoides Kunth & Bouché, Ind. Sem. Hort. Berol. 15. 1848.
Pokeweed. — z'Oreilles Mulâtre. — *tarikai* (« her/its »).

This pokeweed is to be found in continental tropical America as well as throughout the West Indies. In Dominica it is a familiar species in woodlands, clearings, and abandoned gardens chiefly at middle elevations.

[262 278] The young leaves are often boiled by the Carib as an edible green, which is also said to be « good » for dropsy.

Specimen citation: 26 (T), 1160.

| **Rivina humilis** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 121. 1753.
Rivina laevis Linnaeus, Mant. 1 41. (1767).
Demoiselle.

An herb of tropical America, frequent on waste land and fields in Dominica.

[271] Caribs make a medicinal « tea » from demoiselle.

Specimen citation: 3376.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

POETULACACEAE. Purslane Family. 824x

Portulaca oleracea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 445. 1753.
Purslane. — Coupié, Pourpier.

A cosmopolitan weed of gardens and waste lands throughout the temperate and tropical regions of the world.

The boiled leaves of coupié are eaten by the Caribs (and the [262 Creoles) as a green vegetable, but they are also employed as a [278] plaster or poultice on the loins in order to ease backache or 841] painful menstruation. For the latter purpose the leaves are often mixed with kudjuruk (*Petiveria alliacea*).

Specimen citation: 107 (T).

ANNONACEAE. Custard-apple Family.

Annona muricata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 536. 1753.
Soursop. — Corossol. — *ualápana* (cf. Taino *uanábana*).

A familiar tree of the West Indies and grown throughout the tropics for its fruit which is used as a table fruit or more often to make delicious sorbetes or to flavor ice cream.

Cultivated specimens supply the Caribs with a source of a [272 refreshing fruit juice which is used as an unfermented drink. 273] A fermented drink formerly was prepared from chewed up fruits. The fruit is believed to induce lactation in women if, 1) eaten [853] alone; 2) if used locally as a poultice; or 3) if used as one ingredient in a tea which also includes a momben leaf (*Spondias mombin*), two leaves of 'ti baume (*Hyptis atrorubens*), three leaves of trois quarts (*Passiflora* sp.) and a fruit of kurupum (*Myrcia citrifolia*). A painful retroverted uterus (called «mal de mère») 278 is treated with a tea made from three leaves of corossol, two 824x leaves of bois cassave (*Cornutia pyramidata*), and one sprig of Fanis (*Anethum graveolens*). A tea supposed to cure gonorrhea has included in its preparation a piece of the root of the corossol (see *Solanum torvum*); while a ritual tea used against diarrhea also employs leaves of corossol (see *Ocimum micranthum*). The fruit must not be eaten by those going fishing as it would prevent [226]

x
824
[278] fish from biting by causing their mouths to become soft. Corossol
226 leaves are also boiled alone to produce a tea drunk by those
[844] with colds and fever, or by women in labour (parturition); the
[515] leaves are also used for bathing (adults or children).

Specimen citation: 398.

Annona reticulata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Custard Apple, Bullock's Heart. — Cachima, Cachima Coeur de Boeuf. — *alabálisa* (m), *kasíma*.

This is another common West Indian species, varieties of which produce edible fruits.

[752] The bark is employed by the Caribs to bandage sprains and dislocations; when so used it is kept moist with salt water. [278] A tea is brewed from cachima leaves, together with the leaves of the pigeon pea [*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp.], and this is drunk by individuals suffering from fever.

Specimen citation: 3358.

Annona squamosa Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 537. 1753.

Sweetsop, Sugar Apple. — Pomme Canelle. — *halíkiri*.

Like the preceding species this small West Indian tree is widely cultivated for its edible fruit.

[278] The leaves are made into a « tea », drunk as a supposed cure for a painful spleen (a common complaint among Caribs).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Guatteria caribaea Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 240. 1905.

Guatteria ouregou Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 7, 1859, non Dunal.

Cananga caribaea Britton in Br. & Wils. Bot. P. R. (Sci. Surv. Puerto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 311. 1924.

Maho (often spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Noir, Bois Violon.

A medium-sized forest tree found in Puerto Rico and recorded
[313] in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Grenada.

Bois violon possesses a good wood often made by the Caribs
[263] into boards. Young specimens of this species are also fashioned
[394] into masts for dugouts. The strong bark furnishes a rope fiber from which are constructed the halyards, etc., for sails. Such

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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material is used also in calking canoes [33]. By some Indians maho noir fiber is considered superior to that of maho doux (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*); by others it is considered inferior. [396] [184]

Specimen citation: 3356.

Ozandra laurifolia (Swartz) A. Richard [34] **in Sagra, Fl. Cub. 20. 1845.**

Bois Pian.

A forest tree recorded in the Antilles from Cuba to Dominica. The dense, fine-grained, tough, yellow wood is said to equal boxwood, and is imported into England under the name « lancewood spars » (18).

Bois Pian wood has a strong, pharmaceutical odor when cut, and its sap is said by some to have been used by the Caribs in the treatment of yaws (« pians »). However, the name may allude to the characteristic yaw-like markings found on the trunk. [278]

Specimen citation: 28 (T), 129 (T).

LAURACEAE. LAUREL FAMILY.

Ocotea sp. [35]

Laurier de rose. — *kuléuako.*

In Dominica laurier de rose occurs on forested slopes from lower to middle elevations, but due to its general demand for construction purposes it has become rare.

The aromatic, strong, durable timber of this species formerly was much used by the Caribs for fashioning the boards on which they slept in their *mwina*, etc. [352]

Specimen citation: 102 (T).

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[33] When so employed it is mixed with gomme (gum elemi, *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil. [314 237]

[34] A provisional identification, based only on sterile material.

[35] The available herbarium material of laurier de rose includes only staminate flowers making it difficult to determine the species with any certainty but the specimen suggests either *O. dominicana* Meisn. or *O. staminea* Mez. The species *Phoebe elongata* (Vahl) Nees has also been tentatively identified as laurier de rose.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 **Persea americana** Miller, Gard. Dict. ed. 8 no. 1. 1768.

Persea gratissima Gaertner filius, Fr. & Sem. 3: 222. 1807.

Persea persea Cockerell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 19: 95. 1892.

Alligator Pear, Avocado. — Z'Aboca.

The avocado, a native of Central or South America, has been cultivated in the West Indies for many years for its edible fruit. The latter also is the source of an oil used for burning and for making soap (8).

[262 252] The Caribs, like all other inhabitants of Dominica, grow the tree for its fruit. These may be eaten in a variety of ways, but are often mixed with manioc farine and pimento.

Specimen citation: 112 (T), 3335.

ROSACEAE. Rose Family.

Chrysobalanus icaco Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 513. 1753.

Coco-Plum, Icaco. — Z'Icaque[26]. — *ikáku, kikáku, nalábunú* (m).

A small evergreen tree or shrub common on coasts throughout the West Indies, Central America, and northern South America.

[373] [262] The hard, heavy wood of the coco-plum is pounded by the Caribs to make a wick for gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) torches. As elsewhere in the American tropics the small, plum-like drupes (which may vary in color from white to pink and purple) are frequently eaten.

Specimen citation: 584, 585, 3067, 3351.

Licania ternatensis Hooker f., Kew Bull. 81: 251. 1893.

Licania hypoleuca Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 230. 1860, non Bentham.

Bois Diable.

This tree, found in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad, is one of the commonest trees of Dominica's rain forests.

Timber of bois diable is used by the Indians for posts, sole-

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[26] Not to be confused with a crimson-flowered species of *Ixora*, known in the Carib Reserve as ti (petit) z'icaque. This low cultivated shrub has become established in several areas in the Reserve.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Timber of bois diable is used by the Indians for posts, sole-plates, etc., while the wood is considered to be the best in Dominica for the manufacture of charcoal, the principal kitchen fuel of the island. The pounded wood is also employed by the Carib as a wick in torches made of the gum from the gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*). 524x [342 [372] 373]

Specimen citation: 578, 1237, 2067, 2672.

LEGUMINOSAE. Pulse Family.

Andira inermis (Wright) Humboldt, Bonpland, and Kunth, Nov. Gen. 6: 385. 1823.

Andira jamaicensis Urban, Symb. Ant. 4: 298. (1905).
Bastard Mahogany. — Angelin, L'Angelin. — **uakábu** (« house-post »).

This species of tree is found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America, and in Dominica occurs at lower to middle elevations.

The hard, red-brown wood of angelin is very durable and is used by the inhabitants of Dominica, Caribs included, for posts, boards and all types of heavy constructional work. [313]

Specimen citation: 3332.

Arachis hypogaea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 741. 1753.
Peanut. — Pistache. — ***mâli*** (*cf.* Tupi ***mandubi***).

The peanut is widely cultivated in the warm temperate and tropical regions of the earth. Although earlier writers believed in an Old World origin this American species is probably indigenous to Brazil, but was also known in pre-Columbian times by the ancient Peruvians (1) (11).

Caribs eat the seeds either raw or roasted, and an oil is also prepared by grinding. Raw seeds are considered to possess aphrodisiacal properties. The pistache is also an ingredient in a ritual bath described under *Ocimum micranthum*. [262] [832] [755]

Specimen citation: 3328.

Cassia alata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 378. 1753.

Herpetica alata Rafinesque. Sylva Tell. 123. 1838.
Ringworm Shrub (18). — Desay.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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T

x 824 A shrub native to the tropics of America but naturalised in the Old World, and found in Dominica on hillsides and waste ground at lower elevations.

[271] According to MACFADYEN quoted in (18) the juice of the leaves and buds of this plant are employed in the form of an infusion or bath for the cure of ringworm and other skin diseases. The pulped leaves and flowers are also used in Jamaica as poultices for the treatment of sores.

The Caribs bathe themselves with the juice of crushed dewy leaves to help eradicate skin diseases.

Specimen citation: 3400.

Cassia bicapsularis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 376. 1753.

Adipera bicapsularis Britton & Rose in Br. & Wils. Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 370. 1924.

Sou Marqué.

A shrub of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

[755 751] The Caribs sometimes cultivate sou marqué. It is one of the constituents (with *Mimosa pudica* and *Petiveria alliacea*) of a ritual bath taken at the time of a new moon. This bath is considered to be a protection against evil spells. For other uses of sou marqué see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 143 (T).

Cassia hirsuta Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 378. 1753.

Ditremexa hirsuta Britton & Rose in Br. & Wils. Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 372. 1924.

Z'Herbes Puantes (« Male »). — *kuläbule, ukákere háko* (w) (« ants' hammock »).

A widespread herbaceous plant of tropical America.

Both this species and the next are called by the Carib z'herbes puantes; however, a distinction is made in that *C. hirsuta* is considered to be the « male » plant and *C. occidentalis* the « female ». [272 278 843] *C. hirsuta* is considered to be the better or « stronger » of the two. An infusion of the ground seeds of either z'herbes puantes is employed as a febrifuge and as a coffee substitute. The latter is preferred (to coffee) by pregnant women.

Specimen citation: 122 (T).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callimage ST13

WEBBIA VOL. XIII, TAV. XCII
W. H. Hodge & Douglas Taylor, *The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica.*

x 824
[342]
[285]

Fig. 19

Fig. 20

[415
285]

[415]

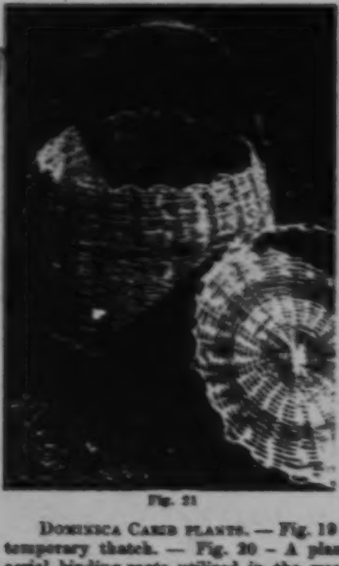

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 19 – *Carludovica plan*ceri, whose leaves serve as a
temporary thatch. — Fig. 20 – A plant of mibi, *Anthur*ium palmatum, showing the
aerial binding roots utilized in the weaving of spiral bas kets. — Fig. 21 – A spiral
basket woven from mibi roots. It has been colored yello w and mauve with the local
vegetable dyes, « saffran » (*Curcuma*) and « tan » (*Picram*nia). — Fig. 22 – The com-
mon balisier, *Heliconia caribaea*, whose utilitarian leaves (above left) are used as
thatch, in basketry, and as a common wrapping medium.

[Opposite p. 562]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

'824-
262

[Opposite p. 569]

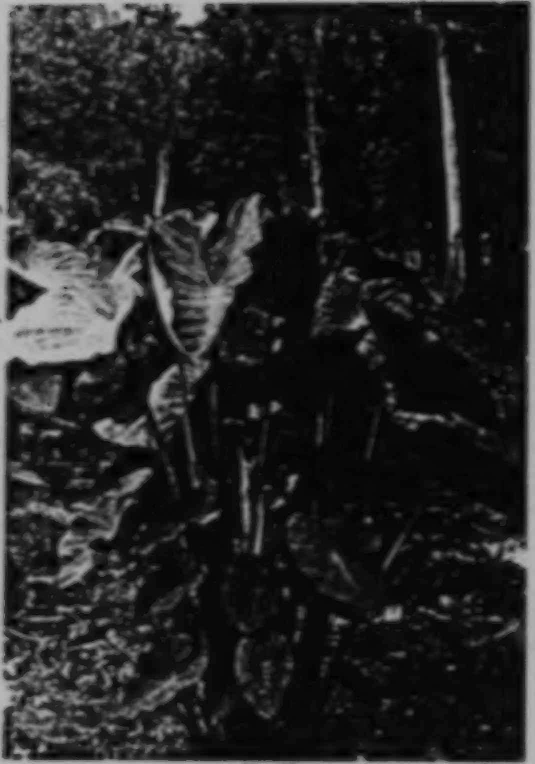

Fig. 23

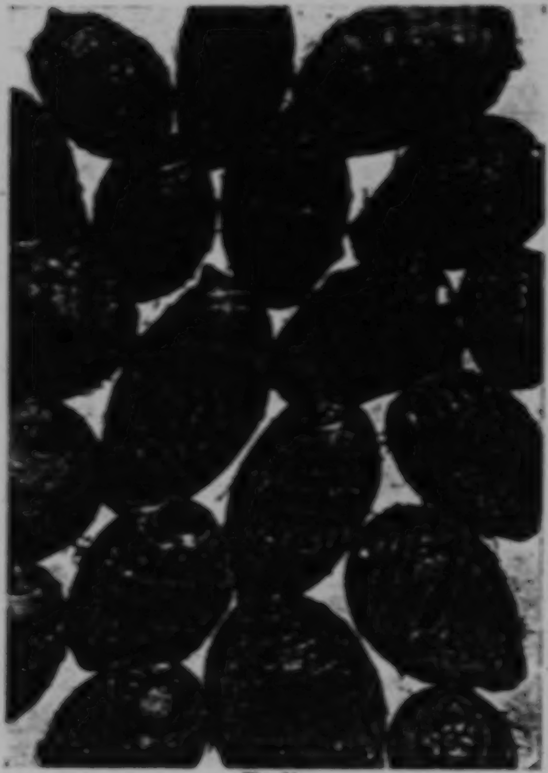

Fig. 24

DOMINICA CARIB PLANTS. — Fig. 23 – A flowering plant of the dasheen, *Colocasia esculenta*, an introduced species now much grown by the Caribs as a staple vegetable. — Fig. 24 – Edible dasheen cormels.

824ᴷ

Cassia occidentalis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 377. 1753.

Ditremexa occidentalis Britton & Rose in Br. & Wils. Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5) 377. (1924).
Coffee Senna, Jumbie Coffee, Wild Coffee, Negro Coffee, Stinking Weed. — S'Herbes Puantes («Female»). — *kaldibale*.

This species was first collected in Jamaica but it is widely distributed in the tropics and subtropics and in the warm temperate portions of the United States.

The seeds of *Cassia occidentalis* have been used as a coffee substitute in many regions, and the plant itself is employed in domestic medicine. An infusion of the leaves has been employed in West Africa in the treatment of yellow fever while an ointment derived from the plant has also been used for cutaneous diseases.

Seeds of the «female» s'herbes puantes are utilized by the Island Carib as a coffee substitute (quite unnecessary in a country where coffee is grown). A tea made from the leaves is considered a «cure-all» for colds, fever, for washing cuts, and for pregnant women. «Teas» are also made from the roots and flowers, the former being used for colds, the latter for «cough». [272] [278 443]

Specimen citation: 123 (T), 3187.

Desmodium axillare (Swartz) DeCandolle Prod. 2: 333. 1825. var. **axillare**.

Meibomia axillaris O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 1: 195. 1891.
Tick Trefoil. — Cacoyer.

A creeping herbaceous species of tropical America.

Caribs chop up a whole plant of cacoyer, place it in water and then drink the decoction as a «cure» for gonorrhea. [278]

Specimen citation: 3384.

Erythrina corallodendron Linnaeus var. **bicolor** Krukoff, Brittonia 3: 275. 1939.
Coral Tree. — Bois Immortel, Immortel.

This variety of *E. corallodendron* is limited to the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it is to be found at lower and middle elevations.

The Creoles often use the trees as living and permanent («immortal») boundary or fence posts. [417]

c

824 [272] A tea is made from the leaves[26] 1 by the Island Caribs.
Specimen citation: 2054.

Hymenaea courbaril Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1192. 1753.
Courbaril, West Indian Locust. — Coubari. — *kaárabali*.

A tree known throughout the West Indies as well as in continental tropical America. The species occurs in Dominica at lower and middle elevations.

Courbaril possesses a tough heavy timber much utilized for carpentry work and furniture (8), while from the stems and twigs exudes a hard resin collected in Brazil and marketed under the name of Demerara, or Para copal (22).

[262] The coarse pods of coubaril contains an edible pulp which is much eaten by Carib children. [272] Formerly it was stirred up in water to make a refreshing and, some say, nutritive beverage. [318] The heavy timber is difficult to work, and because it does not resist exposure to weather, it is not employed by the Carib.

Specimen citation: 3222.

Inga laurina (Swartz) Willdenow, Sp. Pl. 4: 1018. 1806.
Pois Doux.

A medium-sized tree common on moist sites from Puerto Rico to Grenada at lower to middle elevations.

[351] Within its range the pois doux is a favorite shade tree for coffee and in Dominica it is much used for this purpose as well as to shade cacao.

[278] A medicinal tea is prepared by the Caribs from a mixture of the bark of the pois doux and maho piment (*Daphnopsis caribaea*). Water taken from a hole (presumably a hole caused by trunk decay) in a pois doux tree, when mixed with leaf heart of balisier (*Heliconia*), is utilized as a local treatment of erysipilis.

Specimen citation: 611, 612.

Lonchocarpus spp.
Savonette[27]. — *iníku* (see also *Hibiscus esculentus*).

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[26] For a further use see quina (*Exostemma sanctae-luciae*).

[27] Species of *Pithecellobium* and *Sapindus* also are known by this patois name.

1 [i.e., the coral tree. -An.]

Several species of *Lonchocarpus*, including *L. benthamianus* Pittier and *L. latifolius* (Willd.) H. B. K., occur on the drier coastal slopes of Dominica. 824

It has been shown that rotenone is a constituent of the roots of various species of this genus, and because this crystalline compound is toxic to fish, roots of *Lonchocarpus* have been used as a drug by many Indian tribes of South America, including the Barama River Caribs of Guiana. [illegible]

The bark of the roots of savonette is crushed by the Island Carib and is employed as a fish poison.

Specimen citation: 614 (*L. benthamianus*).

Mimosa pudica Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 518. 1753.
Sensitive Plant. — Honteuse. — *bóu nabénene* (from Fr. *bon jour* plus *nabénene* «my spouse»).

This species, widely distributed in the West Indies and continental tropical America, has also become naturalized in Australasia and tropical Asia. In Dominica the plant is to be found on grassy banks and waste places at lower and middle elevations.

Honteuse is a Carib «charm» plant, the use of which is described under *Petiveria alliacea*. See also another use discussed under *Ipomoea pes-caprae*. 755

Specimen citation: 616.

Ormosia monosperma (Swartz) Urban, Symb. Ant. 1: 321. 1899.
Ormosia dasycarpa Jackson, Trans. Linn. Soc. 10: 358. 1811.
Caconier.

A large Antillean tree recorded from Guadeloupe and Dominica.

The coarse-grained, hard wood of caconier is used by Carib and Creole alike for shingles and general building purposes. 342

Specimen citation: 2037, 3264.

Phaseolus vulgaris Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 723. 1753.
Kidney Bean. — *mabíti*.

A native plant of tropical America widely cultivated by the natives of both North and South America at the time of the Discovery. Loven records this species as one of the culture plants of the Tainos (37).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x824 The kidney bean was known and grown by the Island Caribs under its aboriginal name. Although still grown today Caribs
229 believe that the species must not be handled by hunter or fisher-
230 man (as this would spoil his catch), nor can plants be given to
231 domestic animals (e. g. pigs) as this would cause them to become vicious.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Pithecellobium jupunba (Willdenow) Urban, Symb. Ant. 2: 257. 1900.

Pithecellobium trapeziifolium Bentham, Hook. Journ. Bot. 2: 142. 1840.

Pithecellobium micradenium Bentham, Hook. Lond. Journ. 3: 217. 1844.

Bois Cicerou, (Bois) Pipiri, Bois Savonette [38]. — *alakálua, aru-kálua* (« white-flecked »?).

A common tree of moist forests at middle elevations in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad, and in northern South America from Colombia to Brazil.

313 Caribs utilise the wood of bois cicerou for boards. A decoction
270 of the bark is drunk for dysentery while pounded bits of bark
224 are sometimes employed as a substitute fish poison. When rubbed
358 in water the leaflets emit a lather which is used as a soap.

Specimen citation: 3137, 3412.

SIMAROUBACEAE. QUASSIA FAMILY.

Picramnia pentandra Swartz, Fl. Ind. Occ. 220. 1797.

Picramnia antidesmoides Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 141. 1859.

Bitter-Bush (8). — Tan, Bois Tan [39].

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[38] The name bois savonette is seldom used on the island for *Pithecellobium*, and in the Carib Reserve by only a few of the Indians. Species of *Lonchocarpus* or *Sapindus* more frequently go under this appelation. *Pithecellobium* has probably received this name through transfer since the genus is the source of a fish poison. used as a substitute for that obtained from species of *Lonchocarpus*.

[39] Not to be confused with another tree also called bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

This small shrubby tree is found in southern Florida, the Bahamas, as well as throughout the West Indian islands. 624 ʳ

The leaves of tan, when moistened and rubbed on an article to be colored, yield a mauve dye. This dye is used in coloring the roots of the lianas called *mibi* (*Anthurium palmatum* or *Monstera pertusa*), employed in the manufacture of the spiral baskets of the Carib women. [386 285]

Specimen citation: 11 (T), 16 (T), 3191.

Picrasma antillana (Eggers) Urban, Symb. Ant. 5: 378. 1908.
Aeschrion antillana Small, North Am. Flora 25: 233. 1911.
Bitter Ash (S). — Simaruba [30].

Bitter Ash is a large forest tree of the Lesser Antilles.

The bark, sap, and wood contain a very bitter principle which is considered by the Carib to be of medicinal value. Chips of the wood are soaked in water which is then drunk for loss of appetite; and the sap (mixed with scrapings from the bottom of the shell of the conch called *lambi*), expressed from the bark, is applied externally as a cure for yaws (framboesia). [278] [825]

Specimen citation: 103 (T).

Simaruba amara Aublet, Pl. Guian. 2: 859. 1775.
Bois Blanc, Montagne. — *simárubu*.

A large tree known from the West Indies, Guiana, and Brazil.

Bois blanc is a familiar tree of Dominica's moist middle elevation forests where it is considered an important timber species. Because it is a host to insects injurious to citrus, bois blanc is often eliminated from the vicinity of the orchards. The wood is most frequently sawn into boards or converted into charcoal but it may be utilized for all kinds of timber requirements. [314]

The Island Caribs employ bois blanc for all these purposes.

Specimen citation: 1195, 1652.

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[30] This Creole name should not be confused with the Carib name *simarubu* which is applied by the Indians to the species which follows.

BURSERACEAE. GUMBO-LIMBO FAMILY.

K 824 **Bursera simaruba** (Linnaeus) Sargent, Gard. & Forest 3: 260. 1890.

Bursera gummifera Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2: 471. 1762.

Elaphrium simaruba Rose in No. Am. Fl. 25: 246. 1911.

Gumbo-Limbo, West Indian Birch, Turpentine Tree, Gum Tree. — Gommier Rouge.

This conspicuous tree is widespread in the West Indies, also in the continental American tropics, particularly in dry thickets at lower elevations.

In the Greater Antilles gumbo-limbo is frequently planted as a roadside shade tree.

[752] The Caribs apply the fragrant gum of gommier rouge locally as a plaster for contusion or internal injury. Because cut posts [417] readily take root and grow, the tree is also used to construct « live » fences.

Specimen citation: 3146.

Dacryodes excelsa Vahl, Skr. Nat. Selsk. 6: 117. 1810.

Dacryodes hexandra Griesebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 174. 1859.

Gommier. — *síbu* (« support, buttress »).

A tall columnar tree found in the Antilles from Puerto Rico to Grenada. In Dominica's mountain rain forests the gommier is one of the dominant species.

Throughout the Caribbee isles the straight trunks of this species have been much used in the construction of dugout canoes.

A white fragrant resinous gum (known to the Caribs as *kurukai*), [314] « gum elemi » exudes freely from any incision made on the slaty gray trunks of gommier rees. The material hardens in the air so the gum can be readily scraped off and put to a number of uses. [302] BRETON (7) records that it served as an unguent used by the youths and maidens on feast days. It is employed to light fires [373] and to make torches [with the wick of pounded bois diable wood (*Licania ternatensis*), tree fern caudex (*Cyathea arborea*), or z'icaque wood (*Chrysobalanus icaco*)]. Boiled together with shark oil [349] and mixed with cotton-lint, maho fiber (*Guatteria*, *Hibiscus*, etc.), 824ˣ

or plantain straw (*Musa*), it is used to calk canoes. When burnt [316]
the gum produces a fine black soot, called by the Caribs *kaéna*,
which was formerly mixed with oil to form a black paint for [386
coloring strands of larouman (*Ischnosiphon arouma*) or for drawing 302]
decorative lines on the face or body. The gum serves as a masticatory said to allay shortness of breath, and is also applied to [278]
an aching or hollow tooth.

Present day Carib craftsmen fashion their dugout canoes from 316
the straight trunks of the gommier[33]. A selected tree is felled, 824ˣ
hollowed and shaped with axe and adze, and then opened — a widening process affected by applying weights (usually stones) within and gentle heat from low fires built along both sides of the trunk. Planks, usually hewn from gommier, are then added to the gunwales thus raising the sides. Cassava troughs and wooden [412]
kitchen mortars are constructed from the trunks of smaller gommier trees.

Specimen citation: 653, 2969.

MELIACEAE. Mahogany Family.

824ˣ

Carapa guianensis Aublet, Pl. Guian. 2. Suppl. 32. 1775.
Acajou. — Bois Carapat, Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *kadho*.

A large tree reported in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad and also native to tropical South America. According to Williams and Cheesman (67) the reddish wood is suitable for general construction purposes and the oil from the seeds is useful

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[33] In the time of Breton and Labat such dugouts were sometimes constructed from a tree known as red cedar (acajou rouge). Breton (7) writes: « The French call it acajou rouge... shingles are made of it to cover the houses... the savages make their canoes of it, and joiners what they please. Moreover it smells very good; its seed might well be used to make oil ». Unfortunately at least two species in Dominica are known today as acajou, and each possesses a fragrant wood. Only one of these, *Cedrela odorata* L., goes under the Creole name of acajou rouge. Although the characteristics of acajou rouge fulfill somewhat Father Breton's description, the other acajou, *Carapa guianensis*, is the only tree known to the Caribs of the Reserve under this name. Furthermore, the seeds of *Carapa guianensis* were formerly utilised [314]
by Caribs in making carapa oil; the samara-like ones of *Cedrela* scarcely fulfill Breton's description.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x 824 medicinally, as an insect repellant, for burning, and for soap and candle manufacture.

Carapate is a source of local timber, but to the present day [223] Carib it is known principally as a «hunter's tree» because its fruit is much sought out by game birds. In the past the wood [316 was used for canoes (see footnote [illegible]). Formerly an oil, much used 302] both as a hair dressing and an insect-repelling constituent of roucou (*Bixa orellana*) body paint, was made from the seeds; but castor oil from the seeds of *Ricinus communis* has now replaced it.

Specimen citation: 126 (T), 145 (T).

MALPHIGIACEAE. Malpighia Family.

Banisteria longifolia Swartz, Prodr. 75. 1788.

Heteropteris platyptera DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 592. 1824.

Corde Caco, Cercle Caco, Sec Caco.

A woody liana of the Lesser Antilles.

[283] The stout stems of corde caco are employed by the Caribs as binding edging for cassava sifters, shoulder carry-alls, tambours basques, and mats.

Specimen citation: 3167, 3270.

Byrsonima spicata (Cavendish) DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 580. 1824.

Bois Tan[illegible], Moricypre, Moricypre Blanc (6). — marĩ, malái.

This tree is common in moist forests throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

The even-grained timber of bois tan is used for posts and [223] elsewhere on the island for furniture. The fruits are edible and are much sought after by game birds hence bois tan is known as a «hunter's tree». As its vernacular name implies, there is [281] contained in the bark a tannin which is sometimes used locally for preparing hides. When the Carib hunter desires to hunt agouti 224 (*Dasyprocta* sp.) he first washes his dog (and sometimes himself) x 824 with a potion or «chance» made by macerating the bark of bois

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[illegible] Not to be confused with another tree, *Picramnia pentandra*, also called «tan», and also utilized by the Caribs.

824x
224√

tan in water and to which crushed plants of *Hyptis atrorubens* are sometimes added. When the Carib hunts wild pig a potion is also made but from other plants — doctor bush (*Piper dilatatum*), malbruk (*Piper aequale*), and poivre marron (unidentified). These hunting potions supposedly insure success in the chase.

Specimen citation: 13 (T), 14 (T), 3161, 3409.

Stigmaphyllon puberum (L. C. Richard) A. Jussieu, Ann. Sci. Nat. ser. 2. 13: 289. 1840. 825x

Calabouli. — *kalábali*.

A common vine of the West Indies and tropical continental America. In Dominica *kalábali* occurs in thickets situated on the drier coastal areas.

The strong slender stems of this species are employed by the Caribs as binding material especially for tying thatching rods to the rafters in the construction of the native hut called *mwina*. [283]

Specimen citation: 18 (T), 3356.

POLYGALACEAE. MILKWORT FAMILY.

Polygala paniculata Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 1154. 1759.

Marcelle Fragile, Zeba Fragile.

An annual herb of the West Indies and continental tropical America. The species occurs commonly in Dominica on grassy slopes, fields, and cleared areas.

The aromatic roots of marcelle fragile are boiled and the water thus obtained is used by the Carib for bathing himself or his dugout canoe in order to undo «piai» (bad luck spells) placed on them. [781]

Specimen citation: 35 (T), 433, 3385.

DICHAPETALACEAE. DICHAPETALUM FAMILY.

Tapura antillana Gleason, North Am. Flora 25: 282. 1924.

Bois Côte.

A large tree to be found in the mountain rain forests of Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Martinique.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

1826 [34] [241] Timber from young specimens is used by the Caribs for making masts for dugout canoes, while the buttresses (« wings ») of old trunks are employed for fashioning paddles. The fruit is edible and is frequently used by Indian hunters.

Specimen citation: 25 (T), 1322.

EUPHORBIACEAE. Spurge Family.

Amanoa caribaea Krug & Urban, Notizbl. Berl. Bot. Gard. 1 (10): 326. 1897.

Carapite [illegible].

This large tree is apparently limited to the mountain rainforests of Guadeloupe and Dominica.

The purplish black wood of carapite is filled with white flecks or deposits, and is so exceedingly hard and heavy that it lasts well in the ground or when exposed to moisture. The Caribs [313] appreciate its durability, and consequently often utilise it for [342] housepiles, etc.

Specimen citation: 1336, 1809.

Euphorbia hypericifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 454. 1753.

Chamaesyce hypericifolia Millspaugh, Field Mus. Bot. 2: 302. 1909.

Mal Nommé, Mal Dormi. — *ákuliáruni* (« eye medicine »), *aláuali akw lii*.

A common annual weed found throughout the West Indies and continental tropical America.

[278] An infusion made by the Caribs from this plant is taken to lessen uterine pains; the same type of infusion or the expressed juice is used in sore eyes or to cure a sty in the eye, etc.

Specimen citation: 563, 564, 3039.

Hippomane mancinella Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1191. 1753.

Manchineel, Majini (from the Spanish: manzanilla, « little apple »). — *baleábakuru* (« sea-venom »).

[illegible] Not to be confused with (bois) carapate (*Carapa guianensis*) or carapate (*Ricinis communis*).

Manchineel is a common, coastal, evergreen tree of the West Indies and Caribbean area. 824x 278

Caribs were the only Antillean Indians versed in the use of poisoned arrows which they formerly daubed in the caustic milky sap of the manchineel. This practice was first noted on Guadeloupe by the men of Columbus' party. BRETON (7) later described the process, « ... they (the Caribs) gave the tree a stroke with an ax and dipped their arrow-points into its milk-like sap. » GOWER (19) states that these Indians also used the fruit of the « manzanillo » as a fish poison. This may be true but possibly that writer is confusing the fruits of the manchineel with those of babarra (*Diospyros ebenaster*), a potent and well-known fish poison of the Caribs. 411 [226]

Specimen citation: 2701.

Jatropha spp.

Physic-Nut. — Medecinier. 824x

Two local species of this common coastal genus of the West Indies are known to the Island Caribs. Varieties of *J. gossypifolia* L. with purplish-red flowers are called medecinier blanc and medecinier noir; *J. curcas* L. is known simply as medecinier. The capsules of both species possess seeds which are frequently used medicinally (8). 278

Caribs employ the seeds of medecinier either as a purgative or as an emetic depending upon the quantity given. A special purgative tea, given on the third day after parturition, is brewed from a mixture of the leaves of medecinier noir, leaves of balie doux (*Scoparia dulcis*), leaves of momben (*Spondias mombin*), sprigs of verveine (*Stachytarpheta* spp.), and ricinus oil (*Ricinus communis*). The leaves of medecinier are also used when boiled to make a tea given as a cure for general sickness. [846]

Specimen citation: 131 (T), 1611, 3207, 3208.

Manihot esculenta Crantz, Inst. Rei Herb. 1: 167. 1766. 824x

Manihot utilissima Pohl, Plant. Bras. Ic. Descr. 1: 32. t. 24. 1827.

Manihot manihot Cockerell, Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. 19: 95. 1892.

Tapioca Plant, Cassava. — Manioc (Amer), Manioc Doux, Cama-

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

X824 nioc. — *kiére* (m), *kãĩ* (w) – Bitter Manioc. *iúbue* (m), *kamánią̃*, *kumánana* – Sweet Manioc.

Manioc is one of the most important root crops of the American tropics, and has been long cultivated by the lowland Indians of this region. It is native to South America, probably Brazil (21), but has been introduced into the tropical and sub-tropical regions throughout the world. The first mention of cassava is by Peter MARTYR[34], who recorded it from both the American continent and the West Indies to which islands it had probably been carried by the Arawaks and Caribs.

Manioc varieties may be divided into two groups — bitter manioc (manioc amer) and sweet manioc (including manioc doux and camanioc). The bitter varieties contain much greater quantities of poisonous prussic acid, and consequently the sweet forms are treated by some as a separate species or variety.

[241] Many types of manioc amer are cultivated by the Caribs (e. g. : « noir », « blanc », « violet », « bleu », « beurre », « cent-libres », etc.) while only one type each of manioc doux and camanioc are [252 262] known by them. Red-stalked manioc doux is non-poisonous and may be used as a vegetable either boiled or roasted. It has a better taste then camanioc which, although less poisonous than manioc amer, must be used with caution as a vegetable.

[278 752] Bitter manioc, in addition to its uses as prepared food, may be grated and employed (without the removal of the prussic acid) in the form of a poultice for sores and infected wounds.

252 The roots of bitter manioc are scraped, washed, and grated into a « kunu » or cassava trough (*batáia*), and then are squeezed X924 either by wringing in cloths or in the Carib stocking-like basketry contraption known in patois as couleuvre [*rukúma* (w), *mátapi* (m)]. The resulting juice with its prussic acid[35] is collected in a receptacle below. The mouchasse or cassava-starch [*tibúkulu* (m),

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[34] Manioc was known to most early historians as *yuca*, a name still used in many parts of tropical America.

[35] Into this leached acid Caribs are said to have formerly dipped their arrows in order to poison them, but it is difficult to see how plain dilute manioc-water could have imparted any real poison. This claim seems the more improbable when one realises that the small indigenous mammals of Dominica suffer no ill effects when fed raw manioc.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

ókoho (w)] settles to the bottom of this poisonous liquid (« manioc water »). Today manioc water is usually thrown away but its poisonous principle may be removed by boiling. If this is done the manioc water is reduced to a thick, brown, gravy-like substance (*siúti*) which forms the basis, of the well-known « cassareep » (*tumáli*) sauce. 824^{x} 252

At this stage the grated, squeezed manioc may be mixed with spices and sugar and boiled in little leaf-packets to form a sort of pudding which goes by the name of canki (Creole) or *káiti* (Carib ?). Usually, however, grated manioc is made into farine or cassave by baking on a large griddle known as a platine [*butáli* (m), *búrolet* (w)]. In farine making grated manioc is kept from coagulating by constant stirring with a crude wooden paddle, or palette, and this action causes the formation of a coarse flour (farine), to which the mouchasse (starch) may or may not be added. In cassave making grated manioc is patted into round flat cakes (cassavas) which average 9-15 inches in diameter and ¼–½ inches in thickness.

Until recently a beer (*uéku*) was prepared from specially thick, baked, and slightly burnt cassavas. To make the beer, cassava cakes were sweetened and then chewed by the women. The resultant quid was then spat into a trough to which boiled manioc water, broken-up cassavas (and sometimes pounded, boiled sweet potatoes), and some water were added. Fermentation was completed in the course of two or three days and the fermented mixture, known as *sákuti* (meaning « chewed ») was then strained through a sifter or a specially constructed conical basket, more water being added in the process. 824^{x} 273

Specimen citation: 148 (T), 149 (T), 150 (T).

824^{x}

Phyllanthus spp.

Graines En Bas Feuilles, Parasol 'Goutis [36].

Several weedy species of this genus occur in Dominica.

The Island Carib makes a tea from the whole plant and uses it as an abortive agent. [278 447]

Specimen citation: 142 (T), 155 (T), 572, 574, 575, 576.

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[36] *Selaginella flabellata* (L.) Spring, with a growth form similar to these weedy species of *Phyllanthus*, is also called parasol 'goutis in Dominica.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x824 **Richeria grandis** Vahl, Eclog. 1 : 30. 1796.
Bois Bandé.

This large tree, common in the montane rain-forests of Dominica, ranges from Montserrat to Trinidad.

[314 / 832 / 224] The timber of bois bandé is widely used by the Caribs for boards, while a decoction of the bark is reputed to be an aphrodisiac. Hunters are careful not to cut or slash at this particular species when setting out for the chase for they believe any injury to such trees would cause their hunting to be unsuccessful.

Specimen citation : 567, 1318, 1895.

Ricinus communis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1007. 1753.
Castor-Bean. — Carapate (from the Carib word, *karapa*, meaning « oil »). — *lamáho* (w), *sulúanẽ* (m).

A native of the Old World, much cultivated and spontaneous in the West Indies and continental tropical and subtropical America.

The Castor Bean is planted in every Carib dooryard and is known as carapate (the name more correctly applied to *Carapa* [302] *guianensis*). Ricinus oil is now substituted for the oil of *Carapa guianensis* for hair dressing. Formerly castor oil was possibly mixed (in place of the oil of *Carapa*) with biset pigment (*Bixa orellana*) to form body paint. [278 / 752 / 846] The leaves of the Castor Bean are heated and used both as a compress for internal pains and for massaging the spleen. A special blended purgative tea given after parturition uses castor oil as an ingredient (see *Jatropha* spp.); while another tea, a « cure » for gonorrhea, includes the seeds of this plant (see *Solanum torvum*).

Specimen citation : 570.

Sapium caribaeum Urban, Symb. Ant. 3 : 308. 1902.
La Glu, Lagli. — *uélekene*.

This tree is a native of the higher volcanic islands of the Lesser Antilles, and is recorded from Guadeloupe to St. Vincent. In Dominica it occurs chiefly at middle elevations although on the wetter windward side it approaches the coast.

The white sap of this species makes the best bird-lime utilized [223] by the Carib. The lime is obtained by making incisions on the

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

trunk of the tree. Bird-limes are also obtained from other species 824^{x}
including the immigrant breadfruit [*Artocarpus altilis* (Park.) [223]
Fosb.], whose white sap must be mixed with oil; and Parali
(*Clusia plukenetii*) whose white sticky sap is definitely inferior
as far as this use is concerned. Sticks (about 1 ½ feet long) for
fire-drills were formerly cut from the wood of la glu (also from [372]
Bixa orellana). According to BRETON (7) sparks, used to ignite
dried moss or rotten wood, were produced by twirling one stick
in a notch cut in the other. The Hercules beetle (*Dinastes* sp.) [825]
is found in rotting trunks of la glu. These huge insects, called
anrehire, are caught either as a curiosity or for sale to tourists.

Specimen citation: 3362.

ANACARDIACEAE. CASHEW FAMILY.

Anacardium occidentale Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 383. 1753.
Cashew. Pomme Noix. — *úlui, álui, úrui.*

The cashew is a characteristic spreading tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. It is often cultivated for its fruit, but occurs in a natural state in Dominica at lower elevations.

The swollen receptacle of the fruit is edible and refreshing, [273]
and is the source of a juice formerly fermented by the Caribs to [262]
make a drink. The kernel or nut is eaten after being roasted. From
the leathery fruit-coat a caustic and poisonous oil is obtained [276
which is used either as a cure for dartres, or as a stain or mark- 386]
ing ink.

Specimen citation: 660, 3344.

Spondias mombin Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 371. 1753.
Spondias lutea Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 613. 1762.
Hog Plum. — Monben, Mombin. — *úbu, húbu, múbē.*

A tree of tropical America frequent in Dominica at lower elevations. The yellow, pleasantly acid fruits of this species are the « myrobalans » of the Columbian voyages. In Jamaica and elsewhere the hog plum is used in the construction of live fences while the strong but light wood is used as a cork substitute (18).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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x824 Caribs eat the fruits of the monben and formerly used them
[273] to prepare a fermented drink. The fruits are also believed to induce
[853] lactation but it is uncertain how they are employed. Inflamed
or swollen joints are claimed to be cured by exposing them to
[752] the fumes of the burning kernels of monben fruits. A tea used
[278 to treat sore throat is made from either the leaves or seeds.
846 Momben leaves are one ingredient in a special purging tea given
853] after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.), as well as in another tea
used to induce lactation in women (see *Annona muricata*).

SAPINDACEAE. Soapberry Family.

Cardiospermum halicacabum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 366. 1753.
Batard Persil.

An herbaceous climbing vine growing in tropical regions throughout the world.

[272] The leaves of batard persil are crushed in water by the Caribs to make what is said to be a refreshing and cooling drink.

Specimen citation: 3289.

Sapindus saponaria Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 367. 1753.
Sapindus inaequalis DeCandolle, Prodr. 1: 608. 1824.
Soapberry, Soap Tree. — Bois Savonette[27]. — *túlisi* (m), *lúluru* (w).

A tree of lower elevations found in the West Indies and in continental tropical America.

The fruits of the soapberry may be used for washing purposes, and in various parts of the Antilles the seeds are strung to make necklaces.

[388 Dominica's Caribs employ the bark («scales») of *Sapindus saponaria* for soap while a concentrated decoction of the bark is
278] reputed to stop dysentery.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

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[27] Not to be confused with two other Dominica trees, *Lonchocarpus* sp., and *Pithecellobium jupunba*, also called bois savonette.

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X824

Fig. 25

Fig. 26

396
501
227

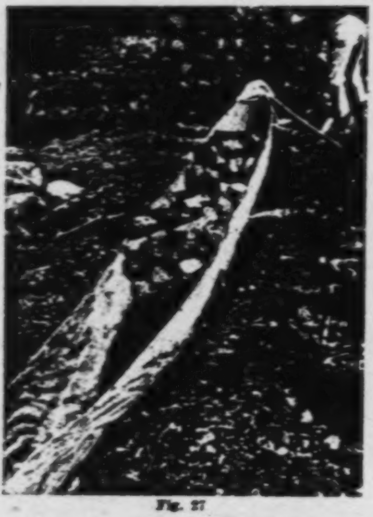

Fig. 27

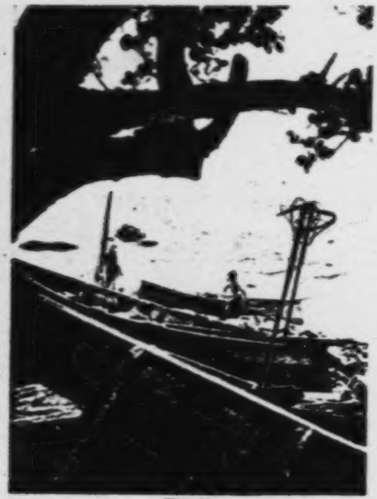

Fig. 28

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 25 – Arrowroot, *Maranta arundinacea*, a valuable food and charm plant. — Fig. 26 – Giant boles of the gommier, *Dacryodes excelsa*, source of a useful gum resin and wood for the manufacture of dugout canoes, cassava troughs, and kitchen mortars. Closeup shows incisions at base of trunk made for stimulating the flow of the fragrant gum. — Fig. 27 – « Opening » a gommier canoe at Salybia. Low fires have been built closely paralleling the canoe which has been weighted with stones and water to aid in the spreading process. — Fig. 28 – Gommier canoes on the beach at Salybia, showing the planked sides. The nets (*Kali*), drying on the canoe paddles, are for catching flyingfish and are made from split bamboo.

[Opposite p. 578]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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x824

[412
252
291]

[415
231]

Fig. 29

Fig. 30

[252]

Fig. 31

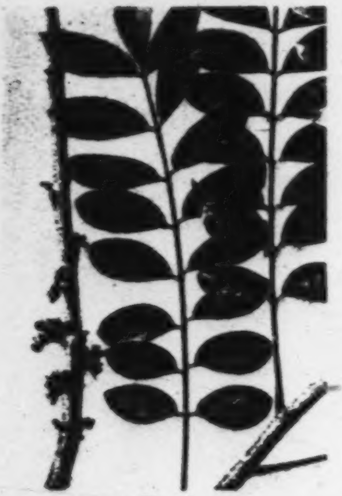

Fig. 32

DOMINICA CARIB PLANTS. — Fig. 29 - A kitchen mortar and pestle in use at Salybia. The mortar is gommier and the pestle is made of bois d'inde (*Pimenta*). — Fig. 30 - A trough or « canoe » made of gommier wood for holding grated cassava roots (*Manihot*). — Fig. 31 - Making cassava cakes on a griddle. — Fig. 32 - Flowering twigs and foliage of the mombin, *Spondias mombin*, a tree supplying an edible, date-sized, acid fruit utilized in several ways by the Island Carib.

[Opposite p. 579]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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x824

SABIACEAE. Sabia Family.

Meliosma herbertii Rolfe, Kew Bull. 244. 1893.

Sept Ans.

Sept ans is a tree of the mountain forests of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles.

[313] The wood of this species is said to be suitable for cabinet work, but the Carib of Dominica employs the timber chiefly for posts.

Specimen citation: 132 (T).

MALVACEAE. Mallow Family.

Gossypium spp.

Cotton. — Coton. — *ikálotopue, māulu* (m) (cf. *Tupi amandiyu-b*).

Several species of cotton are grown throughout the West Indies. At least one of these is native to the Americas for Columbus found the Tainos and Caribs growing cotton on many of the West India islands: « ... cotton plants as large as peach trees... » (69).

[248] The Caribs of Dominica cultivate two kinds of cotton which are to be found growing as arborescent shrubs near their dwellings. In some places the plants appear naturalized. The two types are known as coton noir (*G. vitifolium* Lam.) and coton blanc (*G. barbadense* L.).

283
x824 Most present day Caribs state that they can remember their grandmothers spinning cotton fiber. It was formerly spun by the following process. The cotton was picked and sun-dried for a day or so. Then it was gone over carefully and teased bit by bit into circular pads of about the same size which were then flattened between the palms of the hands. The pads were then piled one on top of the other thus forming a cylinder which was squeezed, folded, and stretched until it attained the required consistency. This cylinder was then twisted into a spiral and stretched carefully to the desired thickness. One end of the spiral was then attached to the hook at the end of a spindle[28], and the other end was

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[28] This had a wooden shank about two and a half feet long, and a guard formed from a calabash or turtle shell.

x824 wound around the left wrist and forefinger. The spindle was set
283 rotating by rolling its lower end (below the whorl) sharply down
the thigh with the right hand. The thread thus spun was rolled
onto the spindle-shank (above the guard) and the process recom-
[286] menced. Cotton thread thus spun was used for weaving ham-
mocks[39], head and leg bands[40], and more recently for mending
clothes. Today cotton fiber is used principally for stuffing pillows
[352 and mattresses, and for calking canoes. However, a ritual bath,
[846 given to the mother after childbirth, utilized coton noir; it is
346) discussed under *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 114 (T), 115 (T), 2541.

Hibiscus esculentus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 696. 1753.

x824 *Abelmoschus esculentus* Moench, Meth. 617. 1794.

Okra. — Gombo. — *inéku* (see also *Lonchocarpus* spp.).

A native of the Old World tropics, this species is widely cultivated. It was first recorded from the West Indies in 1750 (21). and is a familiar garden vegetable in Dominica.

Okra is either eaten as a vegetable or is used as an ingredient
[262 in a local soup known as « calalou ». However, a Carib hunter
252] must not put any gombo in the pot with the game he cooks or
his dogs and gun would lose their power of taking any more game
[224] of that sort. The leaves are used as shampoo in washing the hair
[515 to promote growth. A superstition also exists that eaten gombo
[278 tops will cause one to meet the persons who have been speaking
789] ill of one.

Specimen citation: 136 (T).

Hibiscus tiliaceus Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 694. 1753.

Hibiscus elatus Swartz, Prodr. 102. 1788.

Pariti tiliaceum St. Hilaire, Fl. Bras. Merid. 1: 256. 1827.

Mahoe. — Maho (also spelled mahot, or mahaut) Doux. — *uainiu*, *udiu*.

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[39] It is thought that the Island Caribs first introduced the cotton hammock into the Lesser Antilles from continental South America.

[40] Such articles were all listed by CHANCA (69) in his famous letter, and it is interesting to note that certain of these are still woven by the Caribs of Guiana.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

This tree is a ubiquitous pantropical strand species.

Rope and twine are made from the fibrous bark which is sometimes used in calking[41] dugouts. [283 386]

Specimen citation: 20 (T), 3381.

Sida spp.

Balié, Balié savane.

Several species (*S. carpinifolia* L. f., *S. cordifolia* L., *S. rhombifolia* L., etc.) of this weedy, semi-woody tropical genus grow commonly along roadsides or in waste places in Dominica.

Crude brooms are made by binding together a number of uprooted plants of balié. With the stiff roots of these the Carib sweeps either his red clay yard or the floor of his house. [412]

Specimen citation: 545, 546, 547, 548, 3373.

Urena spp.

Maho (also spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Cousin. — *matérebe.*

Two shrubby, weedy species of this genus (*U. sinuata* L., and *U. lobata* L.) are found in waste places throughout the tropical regions of the world.

The Carib does not distinguish between these two species but calls them both maho cousin. The expressed juice of the pounded bark is taken as a cure for dysentery. The whole plant is brewed to make a tea used against cough. [278]

Specimen citation: 1 (T), 2927.

BOMBACACEAE. Silk-Cotton Tree Family.

Ceiba pentandra (Linnaeus) Gaertner, Fr. & Sem. 2 : 244. 1791.

Eriodendron anfractuosum DeCandolle, Prodr. 1 : 479. 1824.

Ceiba caribaea A. Chevalier, Rev. Bot. Appl. 17 : 188, 266. 1937.

Kapok, Silk Cotton Tree. — Fromager. — *kumáka.*

This giant buttressed species is a conspicuous tree of the American tropics. In Dominica fromager grows as scattered indi-

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[41] When so used it is mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824 viduals throughout the drier coastal woodlands. The light wood is utilized in the West Indies for boats, canoes[42], tubs, etc. (8), [396] while the silky floss of the fruit is the kapok of commerce and as such has many modern uses. These uses were prophesied by CHANCA (69) who noted great numbers of trees on Hispaniola.

This species is believed to be the home of spirits who would [776] be angry if their house was disturbed. For this reason the tree is usually left alone. However, fromager trees are deciduous for a period from March to May at which time it is believed the tree spirits are absent. Presumably during this period the trees may be felled. Caribs rarely use the floss to stuff pillows and mattresses for they believe their sleep would be haunted; instead they utilize the inferior floss of *Ochroma* for this purpose.

Specimen citation: 543, 1649, 3703.

Ochroma pyramidale (Cavendish) Urban, Fedde Repert. Beihefte. 5: 123. 1920.

Ochroma lagopus Swartz, Prodr. 98. 1788.

Balsa, Corkwood. — Bois Flot. — *mápuia ámuse* (m) (« bush-spirit's stock »), *róbu*.

Balsa is a quick growing weedy tree common in the West Indies and on the continent from Central America to Bolivia. In Dominica it is generally found in woodlands at lower elevations.

The white, soft, very light wood is much employed for floats, rafts, aircraft construction, and generally as a cork substitute, while the bark yields both a tannin and a fiber used in making ropes (8). The commercial center of balsa wood production is in western Ecuador.

[352] Caribs use the wooly hairs within the capsular fruits for stuffing pillows and mattresses.

Specimen citation: 3311.

Quararibaea turbinata (Swartz) Poiret in Lam. Encycl. Suppl. 4: 636. 1816.

Myrodia turbinata Swartz, Prodr. 102. 1788.

Swizzle-Stick Tree. — Lélé.

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[42] LAS CASAS records that canoes, each holding as many as 80 persons, were made from this species in Cuba and Hispaniola (35).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

A rather small tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica it occurs at lower and middle elevations. 824x

The light-yellow flecked wood of this species has a characteristic odor of curry powder. West Indian swizzle-sticks are generally made from the whorled twigs of this tree, and although such utensils are more popularly known as necessary accessories in the mixing of rum punches, they also have other domestic uses.

The Caribs of Dominica employ swizzle-sticks in the mixing of such daily necessities as chocolate beverages, calalou soup, and cassereep or tumali sauce. [412]

Specimen citation: 109 (T).

STERCULIACEAE. Cocoa-Tree Family.

Sterculia caribaea R. Brown in Benn. Pl. Jav. Rar. 228. 1844.
Mahot (also spelled maho, mahoe, or mahaut) Cochon.

A familiar tree in Dominica at middle elevations, this species is found also in Jamaica, and in the Lesser Antilles from Guadeloupe to Trinidad and the Guianas.

Planks split (not sawn) from the very light timber are used by the Island Caribs to build up the sides of cheaply constructed dugouts (gommier is used in the better canoes). An inferior rope is made from the fibrous bark for rough and ready use, tying cattle, etc. The same fiber, mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*), boiled in shark oil, is employed in calking dugouts. [396 283]

Specimen citation: 541, 3462.

Theobroma cacao Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 782. 1753.
Cacao, Cocoa-Tree. — *kábu*.

Cacao, a native of continental tropical America, is widely cultivated in the world's tropics. In Dominica the species is commonly grown as a commercial crop in the sheltered river valleys and moist ravines.

The seeds (known as « nibs »), first roasted, shelled, and pounded in a wooden mortar are then emulsified by the Caribs in boiling water (milk is hardly used !) as a breakfast food. Formerly piment [252 262]

13: Hodge & Taylor N.E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Formerly pimeut

x 824 was added instead of sugar. Small abortive pods (i. e. those which [263] turn yellow instead of maturing) are used as a constituent of a shampoo which supposedly promotes growth of the hair. The [302 534 372] wood is utilized in the construction of frames for drums (tambour basque), and was formerly used for fire drills.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

DILLENIACEAE. Dillenia Family.

Doliocarpus calineoides (Eichler) Gilg in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pfl. 3: 114. 1893.

Corde d'l'Eau.

A stout liana inhabiting the mountain forests of Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Trinidad.

[272] This vine contains a pint or more of refreshing water which, on cutting the stem, is released and drunk by the Caribs. The species is rather rare and is known chiefly to hunters who say that one must sever the liana with one stroke else the water will mount up the cord.

Specimen citation: 37 (T).

GUTTIFERAE. Clusia Family.

Calophyllum brasiliense Camb. var. **antillanum** (Britt.) Standley, Tropical Woods 30: 7. 1932.

Calophyllum antillanum Britton in Britton & Wilson, Bot. Porto Rico (Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virg. Isls. 5). 584. 1924.

Calophyllum calaba sensu Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 108. 1859, as to Dominica citation.

Calaba, Galba, Maria, Santa Maria.

A West Indian tree found in Dominica at lower elevations.

This species is valued throughout the Antilles as a source of timber. Some of the big canoes of the Tainos of Cuba and Hispaniola were constructed from the wood of this tree.

[313] The hard, durable, reddish brown wood of galba is used by Carib (and Creole) for posts, furniture, and general construction purposes.

Specimen citation: 3199.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Clusia plukenetii Urban, Symb. Ant. 5 : 432. 1908. 824x
Caquelin, Lagali, Larali, Mang Rouge [43] (cf. French : manglier, mangle). — Pomme Chique.

An epiphytic strangler tree of mountain rain-forests ; ranging in the Lesser Antilles from Dominica to Barbados.

Considerable confusion exists among the local names applied by the Creoles to this species of *Clusia*. Kakle or caquelin is the most frequent appellation but the name mang rouge is used at Bellevue, and larali (or lagali) [44] in the Carib Reserve.

The white sticky sap of *Clusia plukenetii* is infrequently used [223] as an inferior bird-lime by Carib hunters. The aerial roots are [285] sometimes employed in basketry and the wood makes an excellent 372] fuel for a local type of improvised lime kiln used by both Carib and Creole. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation : 3206, 3251.

Mammea americana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 512. 1753.
Mamey, Mammee-Apple. — *marioui*.

A large handsome tree native to the West Indies but widely planted in the tropics for its edible fruit.

The strong durable wood of the mamey is used occasionally [313] for posts, piling, and general construction (50) ; the fruit is eaten [252 raw after soaking in wine and sugar (18), or is used to make an 262] excellent marmalade. In the neighboring French Antilles the flowers, distilled in spirit, make a liqueur known as *eau créole* ; while « the gum, melted with fat, is applied to the sores made by chigoes » (18).

Like species of *Ficus* and *Ceiba pentandra*, this species is [774] considered by the Dominica Caribs to be the home of the « tree-spirit » (see discussion under *Ceiba*).

Specimen citation : no collection made.

Rheedia lateriflora Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1193. 1753.
Hat Stand Tree (67). — Bois Chica.

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[43] Not to be confused with another non epiphytic tree, *Tovomita plumieri* more generally known by this name.

[44] A tree called lagli or la glu, *Sapium caribaeum*, should not be confused with this species of *Clusia*.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Gallinago ST13

x824 This tree is recorded in the West Indies from Jamaica and Hispaniola through the Lesser Antilles to Trinidad. In Dominica the species is most frequent on lower slopes along the windward coast.

[276 752 262] A yellow milky sap is found in the wood of bois chica, and is employed by the Caribs to heal cracked or fissured feet. The ellipsoidal fruits are edible and are sought out particularly by the Indian children.

Specimen citation: 3178, 3380.

Symphonia globulifera Linnaeus filius, Suppl. 302. 1781. Yellow Mang. — Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Blanc, Mang Jaune. — *kaléra*.

This stilt-rooted tree of the wet mountain forests of Dominica is known from tropical continental America as well as from Jamaica, Hispaniola, Guadeloupe, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad.

[313] The Caribs use the timber of mang blanc as a source of shingles, boards, and the like. A yellowish gummy resin is also found in the wood of this species. The gum is hard and friable after contact with the air and has been used by Indian tribes of continental South America for torches, as a calking material, and as a cement to fix fishbone points to the shafts of their arrows (18).

A pitch-like resin, called *mani*, obtained from the wood of the closely related *Moronobea coccinea* Aublet of the continental tropics of America, is similarly used by aborigines of the basins of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. For example, ROTH (43) refers to *mani* and its use in his discussion of the Indians of Guiana. Curiously, a blackish resin, also called *mani*, is employed by the Caribs of Dominica for strengthening home-made la pite (*Ananas*) twine[60]. It was first thought, since *Moronobea coccinea* does not occur in Dominica, that the local *mani* was derived from the yellow resin of mang blanc (*Symphonia*) but this is apparently not the case. Lumps of *mani* are always collected along the windward beaches where they are apparently tossed by the sea at certain seasons, particularly during «Carême» (February to

[283]

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[60] *Mani* is put to a use similar to that which beeswax performs in sewing.

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

April). This period coincides with the annual heavy floods of the Orinoco (and Amazon). We believe, therefore, that the *mani* of the Island Caribs is of South American origin. In some parts of the Orinoco drainage, the gathering of *mani* from *Moronobea coccinea* has long been a regular Indian activity, having been described for the early 18th century by Alexander Humboldt in his classical narratives of travel. It is conceivable that *mani* so collected can occasionally be lost from the canoes of the lowland Indian resin gatherers and washed downstream to the Atlantic, where it may be carried by the North Equatorial Current onto the windward shores of the Lesser Antilles. If this postulation is true, then the Island Carib of today obtains fortuitously from the sea-beaches of Dominica a vegetable product which was originally utilised by his ancestors on the South American continent, though subsequently obtained through regular contact by sailing canoe with the Guianas.

Specimen citation: 3247.

Tovomita plumieri Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 106. 1859.
Mang (sometimes spelled Mangle) Rouge.

A tree known only from the mountain rain forests of Dominica and Martinique.

Mang rouge takes its name from its durable red wood which is utilised in Dominica for posts, shingles, and staves. [3/3]

The Island Carib employs the timber for general construction purposes.

Specimen citation: 536.

BIXACEAE. Annatto Family.

Bixa orellana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 512. 1753.
Annatto.[illegible]. — Roucou, Rocou. — *kusèue*, *emáiabi* (m); *bíset* (w); *surúkuli* (« soaked »), *aluládbue* (names applied to the prepared pigment mixed with oil).

[illegible] In Middle America achiote or achote, Aztec derivatives, are the names most frequently encountered.

x 824 Annatto, a native shrub of South America, is widespread on the islands and continent of tropical America. In Dominica it is commonly grown as an ornamental but is also spontaneous at lower and middle elevations.

A vegetable dye, obtained from the waxy red aril surrounding each seed has had extensive usage. Today it is employed to color butter, cheese, oleomargarines, and (in Germany) even white wines. YBARRA states that in Jamaica it is supposed to possess medicinal properties (60). In the past annatto was employed most commonly as an ornamental paint, warpaint, or insect-repellant bodypaint by many of the Indian tribes of tropical America (among them the Tainos of the Greater Antilles), and even today is used by such widely separate groups as the Colorado Indians of Ecuador (65) and the Barama River Caribs of Guiana.

x 824 302 386 Today annatto is to be found cultivated close to most Carib dwellings. Formerly red *biet* dye was much used (mixed together either with the oil obtained from the seeds of the forest tree, *Carapa guianensis*, or with that gotten from the kernel of the yattahu palm, *Rhyticocos amara*) as a body paint because of its [278 751] property of protecting the skin from insect bites and from the ravages of sun and weather[67]. Island Carib prisoners taken by Columbus are also recorded to have had «... their eyes and eyebrows stained circularly around... for ostentation... and also because it gives them a ferocious appearance» (69), but whether the dye was obtained from annatto or genip is not mentioned. To obtain the dye, ripe seeds are boiled in water which is then allowed to cool at which time the seeds are rubbed in the liquid with the palms of the hands. The water, after passing through a strainer which removes the now useless seeds, is allowed to stand during which period the coloring matter is deposited as a waxy vermilion substance. The latter may be dried (with or without oil which gives it consistency) and kept in balls until needed. Carapa or yattahu oil is added when the *biet* paint is to be used. When only a small quantity of the dye was required it could be obtained by pouring a little oil on the hands, then rubbing a

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[67] According to Labat (34) this paint preserved Indian corpses from disintegration for several months.

824r

quantity of seeds between the palms and scraping off the resultant paint with a piece of wood or with a knife. *Bíset* body paint was [302 386] mixed with powdered charcoal (derived from the wood of bois chandelle, *Erithalis fruticosa*) to moderate its brilliance.

The roots of *Bixa orellana* are sometimes used to flavour meat [263 372] or sauces. Sticks used as fire drills were made of annatto wood 'also from wood of bois la glu (*Sapium caribaeum*), bois chandelle (*Erithalis fruticosa*), maho noir (*Guatteria caribaea*), and cacao (*Theobroma Cacao*), etc.'. For further uses of *bíset* as an ingredient of ritual baths see *Ocimum micranthum* and *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 3225, 3303.

PASSIFLORACEAE. PASSION-FLOWER FAMILY.

Passiflora foetida Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 959. 1753.
Mariguja. — *merékuia* (cf. Tupi *marakuya*), *li méku* (« monkey's genitals »).

This passion-flower occurs in Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the Lesser Antilles, and throughout tropical South America. In Dominica mariguja occurs on waste stony ground, open slopes, or in hedgerows at lower elevations.

The fruit of this wild species is eaten by the Caribs, and [262 278] the leaves are made into a « tea » said to be good for colds. The tea is used also to bathe people when they are weak.

Specimen citation: 3193.

Passiflora laurifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 956. 1753.
Water Lemon — Liane Pomme, Pomme de Liane (name of fruit). — *merékuia* (cf. Tupi *marakuya*).

An oft-cultivated species of the West Indies and tropical South America. The pomme de liane is a common slender climbing vine most frequent in Dominica in thickets near streams at lower elevations, particularly on the windward coast.

Caribs peel the slender stems for use as a material in spiral [285] basketry, in the same way that the lianas known as *mibi* (*Anthurium palmatum* and *Monstera pertusa*) are employed. The fruits [262] are edible.

Specimen citation: 108 (T), 2945, 3162, 3735.

Passiflora spp.

x 824 Passion-Flower. — Pomme de Liane Zombie, Trois Quarts.

Several subherbaceous trailing species of this genus, including at least *P. andersonii* DC. and *P. rubra* L., are common on Dominica and are called trois quarts, apparently indiscriminately. The Island Carib women boil the stem and leaves of these plants and [853] the resulting decoction is drunk to induce lactation. A more complicated tea for the same purpose but using certain additional plants is described under *Annona muricata*.

Specimen citation: 127 (T), 470, 3081, 3284 (*Passiflora rubra*); 3348, 3580 (*P. andersonii*).

CARICACEAE. Papaya Family.

Carica papaya Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1036. 1753.

Papaya, Papaw. — *ababai*.

A number of horticultural varieties of the papaya exist; these are widely cultivated and spontaneous in tropical America, but their original homeland in this hemisphere remains unknown.

x 824 252 [278] The green (unripe) fruit is boiled and eaten by the Island Caribs as a vegetable; the ripe fruit is eaten raw. A green fruit, half-baked in hot embers, is split in two, and one half is then applied while hot as a poultice to any local inflammation. Raw meat or fowl is often wrapped in the leaves, for a digestive enzyme, papain, contained therein renders it more tender when cooked.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

BEGONIACEAE. Begonia Family.

x 824 **Begonia dominicalis** A. DeCandolle ex Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 304, 1860, sensu lat.

Dominica Begonia. — L'Oseille.

A tall begonia commonly found in the moist ravines and wet forests of Dominica and Guadeloupe.

[278] The leaves and flowers of l'oseille (see also *Episcia melittifolia*) are employed by the Caribs as well as by the Creoles to make a tea for colds.

Specimen citation: 472, 473, 3312.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824ˣ

CACTACEAE. Cactus Family.

Opuntia dillenii (Ker-Gawl.) Haworth, Suppl. Pl. Succ. 79. 1819. Prickly Pear. — Raquette. — *báta, páta.*

This species of coastal sands and rocks is to be found on most shores bordering on the Caribbean, from Florida to northern South America.

Apparently on the wetter windward coast of Dominica raquette seldom sets fruit but elsewhere on the island the fruit is eaten and is used in the preparation of a culinary dye. [278]

The Caribs employ the fleshy joints in their treatment of enlarged or painful spleen. This treatment, called « haler la rate », consists of local manipulation and massage with the hand and with leaves of *Ricinus communis*. A raquette joint the exact size of the right foot (the side opposite the location of the pain) is found, is deprived of its prickles so that it can be made to fit the foot and is then punctured all over and hung over a fire to dry and shrink. As the joint shrinks the spleen is supposed to shrink likewise and to assume its normal size. 755 824ˣ

Specimen citation: 3814.

THYMELAEACEAE. Mezereon Family.

Daphnopsis caribaea Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 278. 1860. Maho (often spelled mahot, mahoe, or mahaut) Piment. 824ˣ

This medium-sized tree is a native of Puerto Rico and the Lesser Antilles. In Dominica it is common in thickets or woodland borders at lower and middle elevations.

The rope and twine made from the tough fibrous bark are considered by the Carib inferior to that fashioned from mahot doux (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*). However maho piment rope is used more frequently than any other for hauling dugout canoes from the interior forests to the coast. The fiber is also infrequently employed in calking canoes[48]. A tea is made from the leaves of maho piment, and is used in a bath which will supposedly loosen any « spell » under which a person has been placed. Another tea is [283] [396] [789]

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[48] When so used it is mixed with gomme (« gum elemi », *Dacryodes excelsa*) boiled in shark oil.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x824 [853] Another tea,[a] is brewed of a mixture of the barks of maho piment and pois doux (*Inga laurina*) and given to women to induce lactation. For further uses of this species as an ingredient in ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 21 (T), 466, 3274.

COMBRETACEAE. White Mangrove Family.

Terminalia catappa Linnaeus, Mant. 1: 128. 1767.
Z'Amande.

A large, spreading coastal tree, native to Malaya but now widely dispersed in the tropics of both hemispheres.

[313 262] Caribs make boards from the strong, brown timber while the ripe seeds are eaten by them like almonds.

Specimen citation: 3148, 3337.

MYRTACEAE. Myrtle Family.

Pimenta racemosa (Miller) J. W. Moore, Bernice P. Bishop Mus. Bull. 102: 33. 1933.

Pimenta acris Kosteletsky, All. Med. Pharm. Fl. 4: 1526. 1835.

Amomis caryophyllata Krug & Urban, Engler Bot. Jahrb. 19: 573. 1894.

Bay Tree, Bay Rum Tree. — Bois d'Inde, Black Cinnamon. — *asúru, hasuru* (« peeled »?).

A well known species native to the West Indies and northeastern South America and cultivated elsewhere in tropical regions. In Dominica the bay tree frequents hillsides generally at lower elevations. This tree is one of the first « spices » recorded from the New World. Chanca, on Columbus' second voyage, wrote of the island of Marie Galante: « We found there a tree whose leaf had the finest smell of cloves that I have ever met with; it was in shape like a laurel leaf, but not so large » (69).

[411] The heavy, incorruptible wood was used formerly by the Caribs for making war clubs (*butu*). Today it is employed in the manufacture of « boucans » (barbecues), pestles for wooden mortars,

[a] [i.e., of Maho. - Analyst]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^{x}

crude singlepost presses for sugarcane, house-piles, forked posts for *mwina* (primitive type native dwelling), etc. Bay leaves and fruits are used in a tea drunk as a cure for colic and stomach ache, or in a shampoo for washing the hair or body. In more recent years the leaves have been sold to merchants of the island for distillation of the essential oil.

[278
388
437]

Specimen citation: 491, 492, 3220.

Myrcia citrifolia (Aublet) Urban, Fedde Repert. 16: 150. 1919.
Myrcia coriacea DeCandolle, Prodr. 3: 243. 1828.
Couroupoume. — Kurupum. — *iandua, táka-táka.*

This usually shrubby tree is known from Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Lesser Antilles. On Dominica it is most frequent at lower elevations along the windward coast.

The wood is resistent to insects and so is used occasionally on the islands in house building.

The small edible fruits, prepared in a special tea (see *Annona muricata*) are used by the Carib women to induce lactation, while the leaves — along with those of fleurs la fête de Dieu (*Petrea kohautiana*), chou froidure (*Xanthosoma* sp.), and du thé pays (*Capraria biflora*) — are boiled up to make a tea used to combat diarrhea.

[853
278]

Specimen citation: 10 (T), 3253, 3324.

Psidium guajava Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 470. 1753.
Psidium guava Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 241. 1860.
Guava. — Gouyave, Goyave. — *balíkasi, kuidúbu* (white variety); *balúbui* (m), *ualíapa* (w) (red variety).

The guava is widely planted for its fruit in tropical and subtropical regions where it often is a pioneer weedy tree on open abandoned clearings. It is a native of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica it occurs on open slopes at lower and middle elevations.

The fruit is edible, while an infusion of the bark, root, and leaves is given by the Caribs to those suffering from diarrhea or intestinal chill.

[262
278]

Specimen citation: 4 (T), 496, 3350.

UMBELLIFERAE. PARSLEY FAMILY.

x824 **Anethum graveolens** Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 263. 1753.
Dill. — L'Anis.

A native of Europe, widely cultivated in gardens as a source of flavoring.

[263] Caribs have « borrowed » this plant from the Creoles and use it generally in flavoring. For another use of this species see *Annona muricata*.

Specimen citation: 3290.

Eryngium foetidum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 232. 1753.
Chardon Beni (« blessed thistle »). — *balíē, baríē.*

A common weed throughout the American tropics on cultivated or waste land. BRETON (7) early remarked about the peculiar fetid odor of this species which apparently has made the plant especially sought out for aboriginal medicine.

[278] A tea made from chardon beni is believed by the Carib to be a cure-all for sickness. Special teas are also made with chardon beni as a constituent. Thus a tea for colds is brewed from a mixture of chardon beni and caapi (*Ipomoea* sp.); an emetic tea for fever from a combination of chardon beni, three small limes, and tabac zombi (unidentified); a tea « to give heat to the stomach » (when something eaten has disagreed with one) from a combination of chardon beni, jampana (unidentified), and z'herbes charpentier (*Dianthera pectoralis* Juss.). For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae.*

Specimen citation: 3340.

SAPOTACEAE. SAPODILLA FAMILY.

Chrysophyllum argenteum Jacquin, Enum. 15. 1760.
Chrysophyllum glabrum Jacquin, Enum. 15. 1760.
Bois Caîmite, Buie.

This Antillean tree occurs in Cuba and Hispaniola and on many of the Lesser Antilles.

WEBBIA VOL. XII, TAV. XCVI
W. H. Hodge & Douglas Taylor, *The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica.*

824x

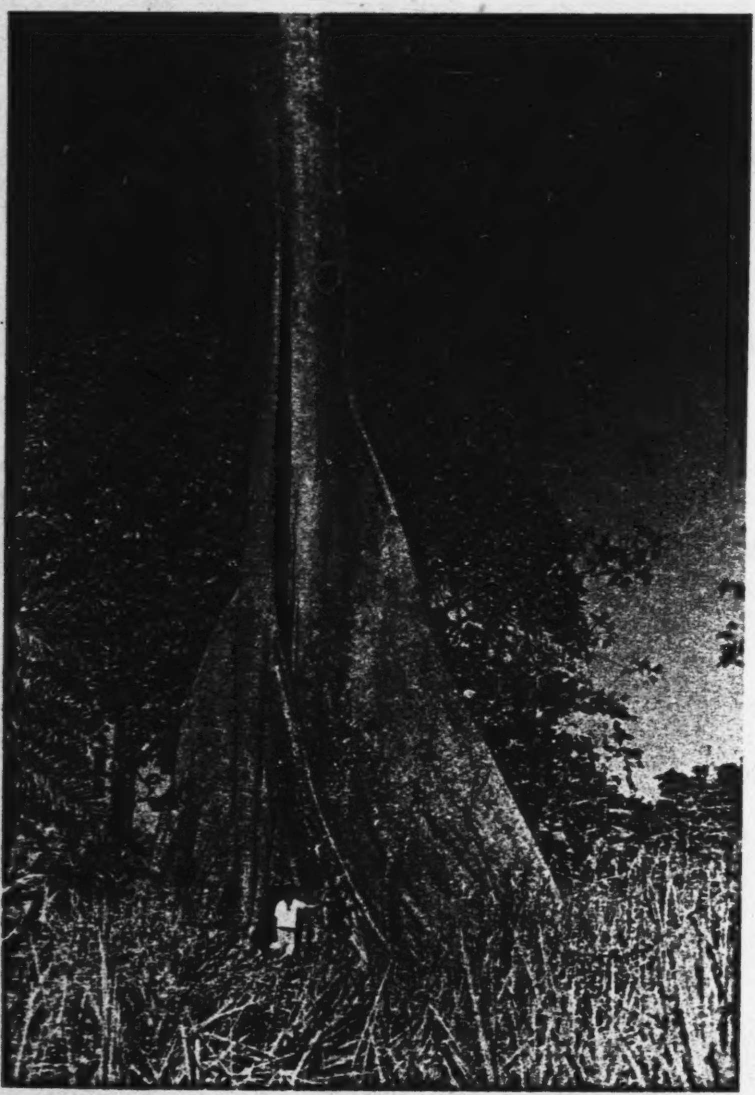

Fig. 33 – Fromager, *Ceiba pentandra*. This species and *Mammea americana* (Fig. 37) are linked with the magical beliefs of the Caribs (Photograph courtesy of Paul H. Allen).

[Opposite p. 594]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

WEBBIA VOL. XII, TAV. XCVII
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x 824

[283]

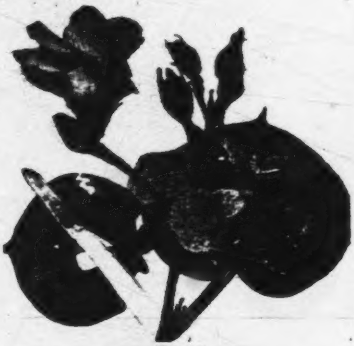

Fig. 34

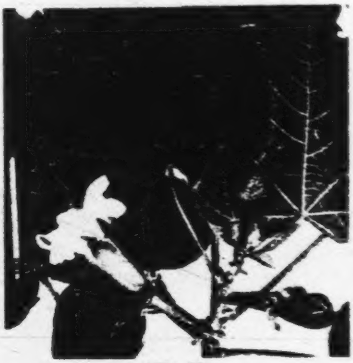

Fig. 35

[386]

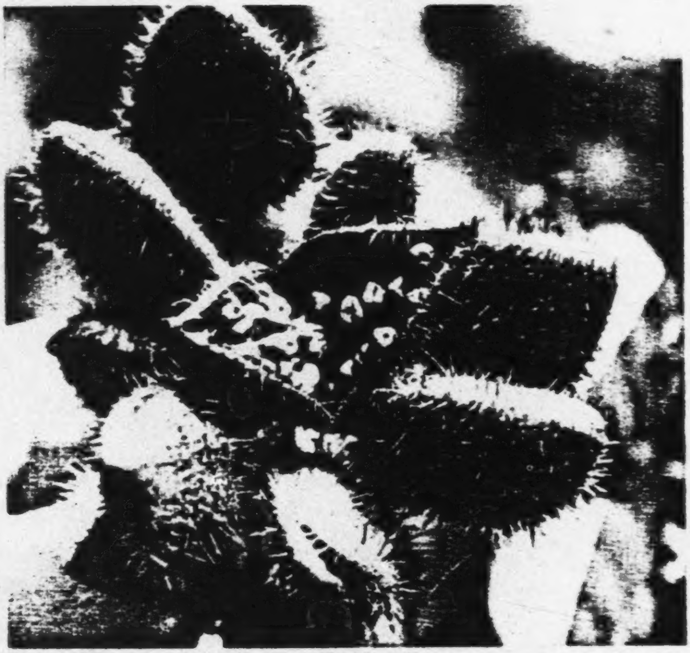

Fig. 36

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 34 - Flowers and foliage of maho doux, *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, whose fibrous bark is made into crude rope and twine. — Fig. 35 Flowers and foliage of bois flot, *Ochroma pyramidale*, source of stuffing materials for pillows and mattresses. — Fig. 36 - Capsular fruits of roucou, *Bixa orellana*, whose arillate seeds are the source of an important aboriginal dye (All photographs except that of *Bixa orellana* courtesy of Paul H. Allen).

[Opposite p. 595]

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x824 [396 262] According to the Carib, the hard, durable, tough wood of bois caimite is one of the best for the manufacture of canoe paddles. The small fruits are edible.

Specimen citation: 3368.

Manilkara nitida (Sessé & Mociño) Dubard, Ann. Mus. Col. Marseille ser. 3. 3: 18. 1915.

Mimusops nitida Urban, Symb. Ant. 5: 167. 1904.

Bumelia retusa Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 401. 1861, as to Dominica plant, *non* Swartz.

Bullet Weed, Bully Tree. — Balata. — *bálata*.

A tall tree known from Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Tortola, St. Jan, and Dominica. On the latter island it is found at lower elevations. The hard, reddish-brown, resistent wood is valued in Dominica for construction work.

[313 262] Caribs utilize the timber of *bálata* as well as its edible fruits.

Specimen citation: 104 (T).

Mastichodendron foetidissimum (Jacquin) Lam in Rec. Trav. Bot. Neérl. 36: 521. 1939.

Sideroxylon foetidissimum Jacquin, Enum. 15. 1760.

Sideroxylon mastichodendron Jacquin, Coll. 2: 253. 1788.

Acoma (or Acomat) St. Christophe. — *áukuma*.

A tree ranging throughout the West Indies from Florida to Barbados. In Dominica the species occurs at lower elevations.

[313] Acoma St. Christophe supplies one of the most durable of native building timbers found on the island. It was formerly much sought after by the Caribs.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Oxythece fabrilis Pierre in Urban, Symb. Ant. 5. 160. 1904.

Balate.

A large tree recorded only from Guadeloupe and Dominica.

[313 [262] 272] Balate possesses a hard wood (but inferior to that of *bálata*), used by the Caribs for timber. The fruits of this species are eaten by children and others, and were formerly employed to make a beverage.

Specimen citation: 105 (T).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x 824

EBENACEAE. Ebony Family.

Diospyros ebenaster Retzius, Obs. Bot. fasc. 5 : 31. 1779-1791. Black Apple. — *babará*.

This species is found in the West Indies from Puerto Rico to Dominica but is also recorded from Mexico, Costa Rica, and Brazil; it has become naturalized in the Philippines. The writers suspect that what passes as *Diospyros ebenaster* in Dominica is not identical with the black sapote of Mexico.

[271 226] The fruits of *babará* (or sometimes chipped pieces of the bark) are crushed and placed in sacks or baskets which are then immersed in river-pools to drug the fish. The latter are stupefied and rise to the surface where they float bottom up as if dead. Fish so caught are, however, perfectly edible. Unlike another fish-drug, nivrage (*Clibadium sylvestre*), *babará* must be removed from the pool after use as its properties are not exhausted quickly.

Specimen citation: 3177, 3282.

GENTIANACEAE. Gentian Family.

Enicostema verticillatum (Linnaeus) Gilg in Engler & Prantl, Nat. Pfl. 4 : 67. 1895.

Slevogtia occidentalis Grisebach in De Candolle, Prodr. 9 : 65. 1845.

A perennial herb of the Old World Tropics and known in this hemisphere only in the Lesser Antilles where it is a common roadside weed.

[789] Caribs utilize this plant in a ritual bath given to unbind spells.

Specimen citation: 783, 2679, 3028.

APOCYNACEAE. Dogbane Family.

Lochnera rosea (Linnaeus) Reichenbach, Consp. 134. 1828.

Catharanthus roseus Don, Gen. Syst. 4 : 95. 1838.

Vinca rosea Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 944. 1759.

Periwinkle. — Caca Poule. — *kákuti, udlukuti.*

An ornamental, widely planted and often naturalized in tropical regions.

A tea made from the leaves of caca poule is used by Caribs to treat diabetes and is also used to combat primary inertia in childbirth. [278 844]

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Tabernaemontana citrifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 210. 1753.
Bois Lait.

A small tree of Jamaica and the Lesser Antilles and found commonly in Dominica at lower elevations.

The brittle twigs of bois lait contain an acrid milky juice which is used by the Carib to allay pain in an aching tooth. [278 752]

Specimen citation: 3160, 3223.

ASCLEPIADACEAE. Milkweed Family.

Asclepias curassavica Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 215. 1753.
Red Milkweed.

A common weedy plant of fields and waste grounds in southeastern United States, the West Indies, and tropical continental America.

The Caribs consider the root of this plant to be a good febrifuge. [278]

Specimen citation: 3212.

CONVOLVULACEAE. Bindweed Family.

Ipomoea batatas (Linnaeus) Lamarck, Encycl. 6: 14. 1804.
Sweet Potato, Patate. — *mábi* [49], *ule* (generic name for edible roots or tubers).

Sweet potatoes are cultivated throughout warm temperate and tropical regions for their edible roots. Although this species is of x 824 tropical origin and was grown in the Americas in pre-Columbian time, its exact homeland is unknown. Columbus saw sweet potatoes for the first time in the West Indies where they were grown apparently by Carib and Arawak (69).

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[49] Chanca (69) records this Carib name as *nabi*; apparently the words *mábi* and *ule* were used of any tuberous food. The Taino equivalent was « age ». Loven (37) considers « ages » to be true yams (*Dioscorea* spp.) but he is possibly mistaken for most of the edible species of this genus are plants of the Old World tropics introduced very early into the Antilles.

Many types of sweet potatoes are cultivated in the Carib Reserve, but the red watery variety, often erroneously termed [241 273] « yam » in the United States, is most popular. From this form of sweet potato a sort of beer used to be made either with or without the addition of cassava. Thirty years ago sweet potatoes were much more extensively grown by the Caribs, and today seem to [177] have been largely displaced by taniers (*Xanthosoma* spp.), dasheen (*Colocacia esculenta*), and yams (*Dioscorea* spp.).

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Ipomoea pes-caprae (Linnaeus) Roth, Nov. Sp. 109. 1821. Beach Morning-Glory. — Patate Bord la Mer. — *kaúkule.*

A creeping herbaceous vine, common as a pioneer halophyte on coastal sands throughout the Old and New World tropics.

x 824 789 755 The leaves of patate bord la mer are ingredients of several different ritual baths used by the Caribs for various purposes. One such bath utilizing this plant is described under *Ocimum micranthum*. Another bath effective for any sickness caused by piai utilizes, in addition to the leaves of patate bord la mer and the root of gingembre douleur (*Hedychium coronarium*), the leaves of the following plants:

acacia (no specimens seen but undoubtedly a local species of *Acacia* or *Mimosa*).
chardon béni (*Eryngium foetidum*).
figuier (*Ficus* sp.).
honteuse (*Mimosa pudica*).
kré kré trembleur (tree specimen not seen but definitely *Melastomaceae* and probably a *Miconia*, species of which are known in Dominica as kré kré).
kudjuruk (*Petiveria alliacea*).
larali (*Clusia plukenetii*).
mabizou (*Lantana camara*).
maho piment (*Daphnopsis caribaca*).
malbruk (*Piper* spp.).
mal l'estomac (*Piper* spp.).
pipe zandoli (unidentified but possibly *Aristolochia unguicida* DC.).
poirier blanc (*Tabebuia pallida*).
roi bois (*Fsittacanthus martinicensis*).
roku (*Bixa orellana*).
sou marque (*Cassia bicapsularis*).
'ti baume (*Hyptis atrorubens*).
wawet (an unidentified marine seaweed).
yam jaune (*Dioscorea cayenensis*).

Specimen citation: 810, 2960.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

Ipomoea spp.
pútuku

Several wild twining species of *Ipomoea* (other than *I. pes-caprae*) are to be found in Dominica.

Leaves of certain species are employed by the Caribs to rub the body when bathing, and their use is considered to bring health and luck to the user (see *Eryngium foetidum*). [515 777]

Specimen citation: 3318, 3323.

BORAGINACEAE. BORAGE FAMILY.

Bourreria succulenta Jacquin, Enum. 14. 1760.
Tawai, Taway. — *tauái.*

A small tree of the West Indies and common in Dominica at lower elevations.

From the inner bark of this species is obtained an emollient fluid which the Indians often use to soothe inflamed eyes, a disease from which they frequently suffer. The wood burns easily and so the Caribs sometimes use it for torches[50]. [278 164 373]

Specimen citation: 17 (T).

Cordia reticulata Vahl, Eclog. Am. 3: 5. 1807.
Coco Poule.

A medium-sized tree of the Lesser Antilles and Venezuela and common in Dominica at lower and middle elevations.

The leaves of coco poule are believed to relieve headache. When used for headache they are placed on the forehead of the suffering Carib. [278]

Specimen citation: 3359.

Tournefortia bicolor Swartz, Prodr. 40. 1788.
Mirette.

This species occurs throughout tropical America.

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[50] Because of this use the tree has sometimes been called bois chandelle, but should not be confused with *Erithalis fruticosa*, the true Carib bois chandelle.

×824 [278 752] Leaves of mirette, when pounded with an oil, are used by the Carib as a poultice for boils or carbuncles.

Specimen citation: 3263.

VERBENACEAE. Vervain Family.

Aegiphila martinicensis Jacquin, Obs. Bot. 2: 3. 1764.
Bois Cabrit.

A shrub or small tree of the West Indies and continental tropical America. In Dominica this species occurs in woodlands and thickets chiefly at lower elevations.

[223 278 755] The fruits and seeds of bois cabrit are employed by the Caribs as a lure or bait in snares set for birds, while leaves of this species are an ingredient in a ritual bath used to combat diarrhea (see *Ocimum micranthum*).

Specimen citation: 3320.

Clerodendrum fragrans var. pleniflorum Schauer in DC. Prod. 11: 666. 1847.
Fragrant Clerodendrum. — Moselle.

This double-flowered plant, originally cultivated in the West Indies, has now become extensively naturalized in the Caribbean area.

[278] The Island Carib of Dominica inhales the fragrance of the fresh flower as a cure when suffering from a headache.

Specimen citation: 864, 3308.

Cornutia pyramidata Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 628. 1753.
Bois Cassave.

This small shrubby tree occurs throughout the West Indies and Central America and occurs in Dominica on lower open slopes.

A stain may be obtained from the juicy blue fruits. This is used by the Creoles of Dominica as a sort of blue ink; if the juice is boiled with lime juice a red ink is formed.

[386 278] The juice of the fruits provides a blue-black stain sometimes used by Caribs for coloring thread and cloth, while the leaves are one of the ingredients of a tea used in the cure of painful retroverted uterus (see *Annona muricata*).

Specimen citation: 19 (T), 869, 3275.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824r

Lantana camara Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 627. 1753.
Wild Sage. — Mabizou.

Wild sage is widely distributed throughout tropical and subtropical America from Florida to Argentina; it has been introduced also into similar climatic regions of the Old World. As a weedy shrub it occurs in Dominica in waste places at lower and middle elevations.

The root is placed in unheated water which is then drunk by [278] the Carib as a cure for gonorrhea. If this plant is identical with the « Indian sage » (*waluhúmeru*) of Breton the « balm », distilled [757] by detaching a leaf, was used as a styptic. Sufferers from pleurisy would also expose their sick side to steam rising from a pot of boiling leaves. For a further use of this plant see *Ipomoea pes-caprae.*

Specimen citation: 858, 3201.

Petrea kohautiana Presl, Bot. Bemerk. 99. 1844.
Purple Wreath. — Fleur (La Fête) de Dieu.

A showy woody vine of the Lesser Antilles, common on Dominica at lower elevations especially on the windward coast.

The purple flowers of this vine, together with those of branda [278 847] (*Chiococca alba*), are brewed into a tea used as an abortive. Another tea, utilizing this plant as an ingredient, is described under *Myrcia citrifolia.*

Specimen citation: 870, 3279.

Stachytarpheta spp.
Verveine. — *kuiékuiéti* (« slippery, slimy »), *kuríbiš ákuani* (« bird-bath » or « twist-bath »).

Two species of verveine, *S. cayennensis* (L. C. Rich.) Vahl and *S. jamaicensis* (L.) Vahl, are common in Dominica. These plants are weeds with a wide dispersal in tropical America.

A tea from verveine, made by boiling the whole plant, is used [278] by the Carib in ritual bathing (for undoing spells, etc.), for colds and in fact for « any illness ». The whole plant also is a constituent [846] of not only a special purgative tea given after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.) but also a ritual bath discussed under *Ocimum micranthum.*

Specimen citation: 3213, 3305.

x 824 **Vitex divaricata** Swartz, Prodr. 93. 1788.
Bois Lezard. — *hulcúmele, hureúmele* (« lizard leaf »).

A West Indian tree known from Cuba to Guiana and found in Dominica chiefly at middle elevations.

[313 278] Caribs make the timber into boards, scantlings, and shingles; and the burnt and powdered bark is applied to ulcers as a cure.

Specimen citation : 1653.

LABIATAE. Mint Family.

Hyptis atrorubens Poiteau, Ann. Mus. Paris 7 : 466. 1806.
Ti (Petit) Baume, La Menthe Grand Chemin.

A slender, creeping, weedy species widely distributed in continental tropical America, and widely dispersed in Dominica especially in moist cultivated land at lower and middle elevations.

[224] Caribs crush the bark of bois tan (*Byrsonima spicata*) together with leafy stems of ti baume to form a « chance », a decotion used in the preparation of a bath given to hunting dogs before the chase. Thus good hunting is believed assured. For further uses of this species in teas and ritual baths see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, *Annona muricata*, and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation : 13a (T), 881, 4004.

Leonotis nepetaefolia (Linnaeus) R. Brown in Ait. Hort. Kew. ed. 2, 3 : 409. 1811.
Gros Tête.

A weed of fields and waste ground with a world-wide distribution in the warm temperate and tropical regions.

[278] The inflorescences of this orange-flowered herb are made into a tea used by the Caribs as a cure for fever.

Specimen citation : 3401.

Ocimum micranthum Willdenow, Enum. 630. 1908.
Wild Basil. — Fon Bazin (from the French – framboisin).

A weedy annual of tropical America.

[226] Carib fishermen are wont to place this plant in the box with their bait for they consider it a good luck charm. Fon bazin is a

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

Fon bazin is a

constituent of various ritual baths (i.e. connected with animalistic beliefs). A special bath is given eight or nine days after childbirth to the mother and another to the newborn infant. Plants used in the mother's bath are fon bazin, coton noir (*Gossypium vitifolium*), roku (*Bixa orellana*), verveine (*Stachytarpheta* spp.), semen contra (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*), sou marque (*Cassia bicapsularis*), pistache (*Arachis hypogaea*), and bouton blanc (*Egletes prostrata*). Plants used in the baby's bath include fon bazin, pachouli (? *Pogostemon* sp.), and graines z'yeux (unidentified). Another ritual bath for «unlucky» canoes is concocted from leaves of fon bazin, patate bord la mer (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*), maho piment (*Daphnopsis caribaea*), 'ti baume (*Hyptis atrorubens*), marigold (*Wedelia trilobata*), roku (*Bixa orellana*), malbruk (*Piper* spp.), lavandre (*Alpinia speciosa*), poivre Guinée (*Aframomum granum-paradisi*), etc. Finally a ritual bath for colds includes leaves of fon bazin, corossol (*Annona muricata*), bois cabrit (*Aegiphila martinicensis*), and kudjuruk (*Petiveria alliacea*).

824 x
[789
846]
[501
789]
[278
755]

Specimen citation : 3200, 3302.

SOLANACEAE. NIGHTSHADE FAMILY.

Brunfelsia americana Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 191. 1753.
Rain-Tree. — Empoisonneur.

This small scrubby tree is found in woodlands of the West Indies from eastern Puerto Rico to Dominica. On the latter island it is most frequent at lower elevations on the windward Atlantic coast.

The small ripe berries of this species are used by the Carib as a poison. [278]

Specimen citation : 3183, 3209.

Capsicum frutescens Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 189. 1753.
Capsicum baccatum Linnaeus, Mant. 1 : 47. 1767.
Red Pepper. — Piment. — *áti*[31] (w) ; *buémuẽ, ualéiri* (m).

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[31] According to LOVEN (37) the Taino name for this species was *ali* from which has come the Spanish form *aji* (earlier *axi*) widely used in America today.

X824 Varieties of this species are cultivated for their fruits throughout the warm and tropical regions of both hemispheres.

The Island Caribs generally cultivate pepper plants near their
[263] houses. The fruits are utilized both as a relish and for seasoning
[278] sauces. It is also said that the expressed juice of the fruit (dropped into the eyes) was used formerly in cases of ophthalmia. Pounded pepper leaves, mixed with shark oil, are employed in the making of poultices for wounds and sores.

Specimen citation : no herbarium material collected.

Nicotiana tabacum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 180. 1753.
Tobacco, Tabac Pays. — *iúli*, *iúri* (w), *itámāle* (m).

The tobacco plant, a native of tropical America is cultivated throughout the world.

[249] The Caribs grow this plant less today than formerly. Tobacco smoke is blown on ailing infants by midwives and other old women in order to make them well and strong. Tobacco juice is used as
[278] an emetic, and was formerly drunk in dangerous quantities by
[187] neophyte piai-men and candidates for chieftainship, both as a trial of endurance and « in order to see visions ». Powdered to-
[782] bacco [the leaves were dried near the hearth fire (7)] was burnt on the blade of a paddle as a propitiatory offering to the « Maitre Tête-Chien » (anthropomorphic chief of all tête-chiens, the local boa snake (*Constrictor orophias*) and other spirits. It was also
[276] used as a narcotic (for pleasure) by placing a little powder or a dried piece of the leaf, together with wood ash and moistened with sea water, between the inner surface of the lip and the gum (7).

Specimen citation : 151 (T).

Solanum melongena Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 186. 1753.
Egg Plant. — Belongène.

The egg plant is apparently native to southern Asia, but was introduced early from Spain to America (21). It is now widely cultivated in all tropical and subtropical regions.

Caribs grow this species for its fruits which they eat chiefly
[262 in the boiled form. The plant is sometimes grafted on the weedy
252] « batard belongène » (*Solanum torvum*).

Specimen citation : no herbarium material collected.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824x

Solanum nigrum Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 186. 1753.
Common Nightshade. — Herbe Amere, Zeb Amere.

A weedy, cosmopolitan, annual, with a world-wide distribution. In Dominica this nightshade is very common on waste and cultivated grounds and especially on the sites of abandoned charcoal pits. It is regularly sold as a green in the native Creole markets (31, under name *S. nodiflorum*).

Herbe amere is also gathered and used by the Caribs as a potherb. [262]

Specimen citation: 3221.

Solanum torvum Swartz, Prodr. 47. 1788.
Batard Belongène.

A common coarse weedy shrub, found in waste places, throughout the subtropical and tropical regions of the world.

Batard belongène is sometimes used in Dominica as a rootstock on which to graft the common egg plant. [242] The Caribs also utilize a piece of the root of this plant as an ingredient in a tea [278] to cure « echauffement » (gonorrhea); the other ingredients in this tea include three of the four quarters of a quartered root (3" to 4" long and 2½" in diameter) of *pak* (an unidentified scandent mimosaceous plant, possibly *Mimosa casta* L. or *M. ceratonia* L. which occur in Dominica), seeds of white carapate (*Ricinus communis*), and a root of corossol sur (*Annona muricata*).

Specimen citation: 30 (T), 1164, 1799, 3349.

SCROPHULARIACEAE. Pigwort Family.

Capraria biflora Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 628. 1753.
Goatweed. — Du Thé Pays (pronounce « di ţé peyi »).

A suffrutescent herb of waste and cultivated areas in subtropical and tropical America.

This species is listed as one of the economic plants of Puerto Rico (10) and in Venezuela it is used against diarrhea and other intestinal complaints (40).

The Caribs of Dominica employ the plant as an ingredient in [278]

λ824 a tea used to combat diarrhea ; the other ingredients are discussed under *Myrcia citrifolia*.
[278] Specimen citation : no specimen collected.

Scoparia dulcis Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 116. 1753.
Balié Doux [12].

A weedy annual widespread in the tropics of America and the Old World. In Dominica the plant is found in wet open fields at lower and middle elevations.

[854 278 846] From the leaves and stems of balié doux is prepared a tea which is used by the Caribs to bathe their children. It is also drunk occasionally as a fever preventative. The leaves are an ingredient in a special purgative tea given after parturition (see *Jatropha* spp.).

Specimen citation : 3325.

BIGNONIACEAE. Trumpet-Creeper Family.

Crescentia cujete Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 626. 1753.
Calabash. — Calebasse. — *maidlu* (m), *síra* (w).

The calabash tree is found in southern Florida, throughout continental tropical America as well as in the West Indies but almost always close to human habitation. It occurs in Dominica from lower to middle elevations and as elsewhere is frequently planted for its utilitarian fruits.

Calabash wood, though not available in large sizes, is moderately hard, tough and strong, and is utilized in various areas of Latin America for tool handles, ox yokes, etc. (50). Elsewhere in its range the tart copious inner pulp of the calabash fruit has served as food (21), but more often as a domestic medicine, as a remedy for colds (50), as a purgative which can bring about abortion in cattle (50), and as an ingredient of a poultice used against skin diseases. The fruit is reportedly the source of a black dye for cloth. The woody thin shells of the fruit after scraping are used

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[12] It is not certain whether this is identical with the Carib « balié » mentioned by Breton (7).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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824x

commonly as crude kitchen utensils, which in some areas may be highly ornamented by carving or painting (50).

Domestic usage of calabash fruits by the Caribs of Guadeloupe was noted early by CHANCA on Columbus' second voyage. Several varieties of the calabash are known today to the Caribs of Dominica. One type is large and pear-shaped (callebasse-longue), another large and globose (callebasse-ronde), and another rather small and elongate (callebasse-coucou, or callebasse boite). The last type (*tibákuru* in Carib) is cut horizontally across the middle, and the two halves are then scooped out and cleaned. The halves are then carefully fitted one into the other so as to form a little box used for keeping « fire-stone », tinder, and steel. 824x 415

The pear-shaped and globose calabashes may be scooped out and cleaned through a round hole, about one inch in diameter, cut on one side near the narrower end. Such utensils, called in Carib *kúmuri* (w), *malútaku* (m), are then used as water vessels to draw, carry, and hold water needed for the house. Others, called *cuéiu* (w) or *tútu* (m), had the hole cut in the middle of one side; these were used formerly for holding cassava beer.

Smaller calabashes are cut in two longitudinally and each half forms a « coui » which serves as plate, dish, or cup; Carib canoes always carry one or two of these which are used for bailing. [501] « Coui » (probably borrowed from Tupi) were called *kuáiko*, *ríta*, or *túaba* (the first two words designating calabash halves designed as drinking cups, the third being applied to those used as dishes). Shamans' rattles, called *sísira* (w) or *maráka* (m), were also made [534] from the calabash. Calabashes, particularly the coucou type, are occasionally decorated by making incisions into which black or [531] red colors are subsequently rubbed.

Specimen citation: 118 (T), 119 (T), 120 (T).

Enallagma latifolia (Miller) Small, Fl. Miami. 171, 200. 1913.
Crescentia cucurbitina Linnaeus, Mant. 2: 250. 1771.
Black Calabash. — Calebasse.

A tree of the West Indies and the tropical coutries bordering the Caribbean.

The Black Calabash produces small subglobose fruits which perhaps may be utilized by the Caribs for domestic utensils. [415]

824 However no authentic herbarium material of this species has been been collected on Dominica.

Tabebuia pallida (Lindley) Miers, Proc. Roy. Hort. Soc. 3: 199. 1863[13].
White Cedar. — Poirier Blanc.

White cedar is a familiar tree of Central America and Venezuela, and in the West Indies is to be found from Hispaniola to Trinidad. In Dominica it grows commonly in the drier coastal localities.

This fine timber tree is said by the Caribs to exist as «red»
and «white» varieties of which the former is preferred for
[314 timber. Poirier wood lasts well in salt water, and is used for the
396] ribs and for the built-up sides of dugouts; it is employed also
in the construction of mortars, wooden bowls, floor boards, and
the like. The bark of the tree, used as a plaster, is said to cure
[278 corns. The leaves, either whole or chopped up finely, are placed
752] on sores as a poultice. For a further use of this species see *Ipomoea pes-caprae*.

Specimen citation: 839, 3292.

GESNERIACEAE. Gesneria Family.

Episcia melittifolia (Linnaeus) Martius, Nov. Gen. 3: 42. 1829.
L'Oseille.

A beautiful herbaceous plant common in moist ravines and wet forests of Dominica and Guadeloupe, principally at middle elevations.

The leaves and pink flowers of this species, like those of *Bego-*
[278] *nia dominicalis* (also called l'oseille) are used by the Caribs to
make a tea for colds.

Specimen citation: 827, 828, 829, 830, 1162, 1199, 1345, 1444, 1855, 2212, 2335, 3122, 3241, 3555.

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[13] The leaves of this species vary from a unifoliolate to a multifoliolate condition often on the same plant. A number of segregates have been described based on incomplete specimens showing these variations.

824x

PLANTAGINACEAE. Plantain Family.

Plantago major Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 112. 1753.
Plantain.

This annual herb of the Old World is widely distributed as a weed in the western hemisphere.

Plantain plants are boiled by the Carib to make a decoction employed for washing sore or inflamed eyes. [278]

Specimen citation: 124 (T), 784, 3366.

ACANTHACEAE. Acanthus Family.

Lepidagathis alopecuroides (Vahl) R. Brown ex Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 453. 1861.

A common weed of continental tropical America and of many of the West Indian islands.

The Dominica Caribs make a soothing tea from the foliage of this plant and give it to frightened children in order to calm them. [854 278]

Specimen citation: 840, 3229, 3611, 3689.

Pachystachys coccinea (Aublet) Nees in DC. Prodr. 11: 319. 1847.
Chandelier.

A colorful species native to Trinidad and the Guianas but locally naturalized in Dominica and other isles of the Antilles.

Chandelier grows adventively in the vicinity of some of the Carib houses. From the leaves a tea is made which is supposedly good for headache. [278]

Specimen citation: 846, 847, 3307.

RUBIACEAE. Madder Family.

Antirrhoea coriacea (Vahl) Urban, Symb. Ant. 1: 436. 1899.
Stenostomum dichotomum DeCandolle, Prodr. 4: 461. 1830.
Stenostomum coriaceum Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 334. 1861.
Acouquoi. — *dukakua*[54].

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[54] Cf. Carib; *uakukue* = ramier (wood pigeon); *lakukue* = knot or protuberance on wood.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x824 A medium sized tree recorded from Jamaica and Puerto Rico, and in the Caribbees from Montserrat to St. Vincent.

Acouquoi possesses a hard, dense, fine-grained, deep yellow [342] wood which is said to be very durable and which is used by the Caribs to make forked supporting posts for the primitive dwellings [223] known as *mwina*. This species is known as a « hunter's tree », for the yellow pulp of the fruits is eaten by game birds [55].

An early use of a tree call *sokakwa* is recorded by BRETON (7) [278] who states that a decoction of the bitter bark was employed for washing and healing sores. The bark of *Antirrhoea* contains just such a bitter principle and since the present Carib name suggests Breton's *sokakwa*, the two names may well refer to this same species.

Specimen citation: 100 (T).

Borreria laevis (Lamarck) Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 349. 1861. Zeb (Herbe) Akwe.

This species is a weedy herb of tropical America and is common along roadsides and in waste places in Dominica.

[278] A tea is made from zeb akwe and this is employed by the Carib in the treatment of colds.

Specimen citation: 3372.

Chimarrhis cymosa Jacquin, Sel. Stirp. Am. Hist. 61. 1763. Bois Rivière.

A tree, recorded from Cuba, Jamaica, and certain of the Lesser Antilles. Bois Rivière is a common species in Dominica particularly at middle elevations.

[313] The wood of this species has an unusual yellow hue. It is used for boards by the Caribs and Creoles.

Specimen citation: 695.

Chiococca alba (Linnaeus) Hitchcock, Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 4: 94. 1893.

Chiococca racemosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 917. 1759.

West Indian Snowberry. — Branda.

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[55] See footnote 54.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

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W. H. Hodge & Douglas Taylor, *The Ethnobotany of the Island Caribs of Dominica.*

824x

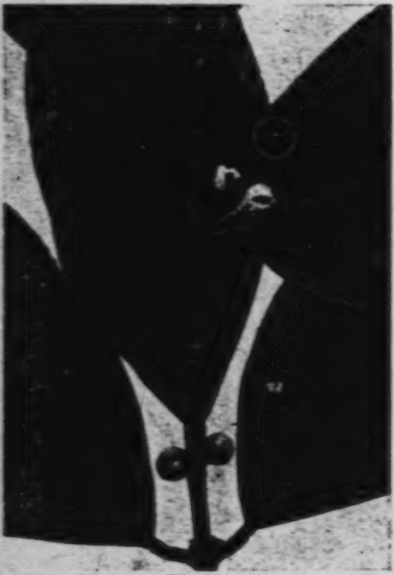

Fig. 37

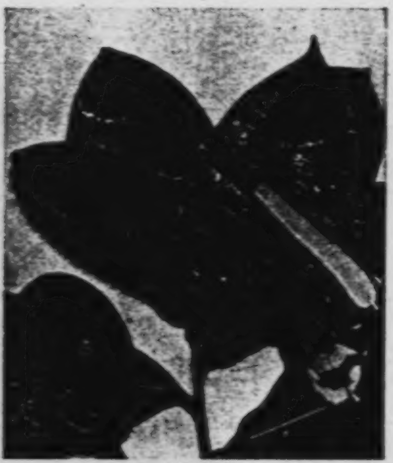

Fig. 38

Fig. 39

Fig. 40

Dominica Carib plants. — Fig. 37 - Mamey, *Mammea americana.* — Fig. 38 - The black calabash, *Enallagma latifolia.* — Fig. 39 - Mang blanc, *Symphonia globulifera,* a valuable timber tree. — Fig. 40 - The common calabash, *Crescentia cujete* (Photographs of *Enallagma* and *Symphonia* courtesy of Paul H. Allen).

[Opposite p. 610]

x824 A woody vine common in the American tropics and found in Dominica at lower elevations.

[278 Flowers of branda, together with those of *Petrea kohautiana*,
847] are brewed by the Caribs into a tea used as an abortive.

Specimen citation: 683, 692.

Erithalis fruticosa Linnaeus, Syst. ed. 10. 930. 1759.
Black Torch. — Bois Chandelle, Bois Flambeau. — *túli* (« torch »; cf. Tupi *turi*).

This shrubby tree is widely distributed in the Caribbean region, being found in southern Florida, the West Indies, and Central America. In Dominica bois chandelle grows commonly in the low scrubby thickets of the windward coast.

The extremely hard, durable, wood is used by the Island
[313] Caribs for piles and posts and indeed wherever a timber is needed
for contact with the ground. An inflammable resin is located in
[373] the wood which is split and bound into torches. These torches,
about three to four feet long and three to four inches in diameter,
burn rapidly and last for approximately two hours. The soot of
burnt *túli* wood was formerly used by the Caribs as a substitute
for burnt gommier (*Dacryodes excelsa*) gum.

Specimen citation: 15 (T), 684, 3291.

Exostemma sanctae-luciae (Kentish) J. Britten, Journ. of Bot. 53: 138. 1915.

Exostemma floribundum Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 5: 19. 1819.
Quina. — *utúuaho*.

This species ranges through the Lesser Antilles.

From the bark of quina Caribs make a concentrated decoction
[278 which is employed chiefly as an emetic and purgative. When
844] combined with the pounded leaves of marigold (*Wedelia trilobata*)
and immortel (*Erythrina corallodendron* var. *bicolor* Krukoff) the
decoction is also given to women to induce expulsion of the pla-
[396] centa after childbirth. Canoe paddles are fashioned from the wood.

Specimen citation: 139 (T).

Genipa americana Linnaeus, Syst. Nat. ed. 10. 931. 1759.
Genip. — *álasibíkai* (m), *ádua* (w).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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x 824 A West Indian and continental tropical American tree to be found on Dominica in moist forests at middle elevations.

The wood of this species is elastic and tough and is utilized in the Antilles for general construction purposes (8). At the time of the Discovery the Tainos and Ciguayos of the West Indies painted themselves with the blue-black, fast stain obtained from genipa fruits. LOVEN (37) states that aborigines of the Guiana coast and the upper Orinoco also painted themselves with this dye, which is used commonly in the same way by lowland Indians throughout tropical South America.

[262] Genips are eaten by the Island Caribs. Formerly the dark
fruit stain was used on solemn occasions by the Caribs to draw
[302] decorative lines on the face (7). However, among these Indians
the customary paint was the protective *biset* (*Bixa orellana*). The
[278] fruit juice of genip also is smeared and rubbed on the body to
cure diseases of the skin. The juicy pulp, along with water from
stems of balisier (*Heliconia*), and the ashes from burnt leaf heart
of roseau (*Gynerium*), forms a medicinal used locally against yaws.

Specimen citation: no herbarium material collected.

Geophila herbacea (Jacquin) Schumann in Engl. & Prantl, Nat. Pflf. 4: 119. 1891.

Geophila reniformis Chamisso & Schlechtendal, Linnaea 4: 137. 1829.

Petit Cappi Tourterelle.

A creeping herb found in moist woodlands in the tropical regions of both hemispheres.

[789] A ritual bath made from this plant is used by the Caribs to unbind « spells ».

Specimen citation: no specimens collected.

Morinda citrifolia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 176. 1753.

Feuille Froide.

This low coastal tree is a native of Malaysia but is naturalized in the West Indies. In its homeland the species has many uses.

In Dominica feuille froide is employed by the Creole population as a general medicinal plant. The leaves are frequently wrapped around rheumatic joints.

The Caribs also term this species a « pain killer », but the authors do not know of any specific aboriginal uses. [278]

Specimen citation : 2954, 3319.

CAPRIFOLIACEAE. Honeysuckle Family.

Sambucus simpsoni Rehder in Sargent, Trees & Shrubs 2 : 187. 1911.

Elder. — Suyeau.

A shrubby species to be found from Florida to Louisiana, in Central America, and on certain islands of the West Indies. In Dominica it occurs at middle elevations.

The leaves of suyeau are boiled by the Carib Indian in order to form a « tea » used in the treatment of colds and fever. [278]

Specimen citation : s. n. (T), 38B (T).

CUCURBITACEAE. Gourd Family.

Momordica charantia Linnaeus, Sp. Pl. 1009. 1753.

Wild Balsam Apple. — Pomme Coolie, Pavecka.

A native of the Old World (1) (8) now widely distributed in the tropics and subtropics of both hemispheres. This herbaceous species has had a long association with man and is put to a great number of minor uses wherever it grows.

Carib youngsters often eat the fruit of the wild balsam apple while the whole plant, mashed in water, forms a brew considered good for childrens' colds. [262 278]

Specimen citation : 3217.

LOBELIACEAE. Lobelia Family.

Isotoma longiflora (Linnaeus) Presl, Prodr. Lob. 42. 1836.

Pipe Zombi.

A West Indian herb, common on moist banks or in fields generally at lower elevations.

x 824 Caribs use the chopped up leaves of this plant to make a [278] poultice for injuries to the foot, etc.

Specimen citation: 785, 2944.

COMPOSITAE. Daisy Family.

Ambrosia hispida Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 743. 1814.

Ambrosia crithmifolia DeCandolle, Prodr. 5: 525. 1836.

Sept Villes.

A perennial littoral herb found in Florida, the West Indies, and Central America.

[278] An infusion of this plant is used by the Caribs as a febrifuge and vermifuge.

Specimen citation: no material available.

Ambrosia paniculata Michaux, Fl. Bor. Amer. 2: 183. 1803.

An annual herb of Florida, the Bahamas, and the West Indies. According to Fawcett and Rendle (18) this species is « a powerful vulnerary employed in baths and fomentations ».

[278] The Caribs of Dominica often cultivate this plant about their huts. A « tea » made from the leaves is employed as a febrifuge.

Specimen citation: 3190.

Bidens pilosa Linnaeus var. **radiata** Schultz Bipontinus in Webb & Berthelot, Hist. Canar. 3 (2): 242. 1836-50.

Bidens leucantha Willdenow Sp. Pl. 3. 1719. 1804.

White Daisy. — Baksa.

A common weed of the subtropical and tropical regions of both hemispheres.

[278] Juice squeezed from the leaves of this species is employed by the Caribs as a cure for irritated or inflamed eyes.

Specimen citation: 3285.

Clibadium sylvestre (Aublet) Baillon, Hist. Pl. 8: 307. 1886.

Clibadium badieri Grisebach, Fl. Br. W. I. 368. 1861.

Nivrage (from the French, *enivrer* — « to intoxicate »). — *kunámi* (cf. Tupi *kunabi*).

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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This species is found in the West Indies and in South America from Venezuela to Brazil.

Various species of this genus are used as fish poisons by aborigines of the American tropics, and probably several species possessing this toxic principle are called *kunámi*. BRETON was the first to mention a *kunámi* as an Island Carib fish poison (7). LOVEN (37) thinks this, the commonest fish poison of the Island Caribs, to be identical with the *conamy* of the Galibis and with the *kunan* of the Wapishianas. LOVEN believes that the Island Caribs brought this plant with them from South America.

Today bundles of the leaves of *kunámi* are pounded and thrown into river pools by the Dominica Caribs. When the fish begin to jump out of the water to escape the effects of the drug, the Caribs jump in and seize them. Unlike *babará* this drug may be used in sea-water pools as well as in those of the rivers. [226 278]

Specimen citation: 3195.

Egletes prostrata (Swartz) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 334. 1891.
Egletes domingensis Cassini, Dict. Sci. Nat. 14: 265. 1819.
Bouton Blanc.

A perennial prostrate herb of sandy shores, with a distribution from Hispaniola and Jamaica to Venezuela.

The Dominica Caribs utilize bouton blanc as one ingredient of a ritual bath given to the mother eight or nine days after childbirth (see *Ocimum micranthum*). [846]

Specimen citation: 773.

Neurolaena lobata (Linnaeus) R. Brown in DeCandolle, Prodr. 6: 292. 1837.
Z'Herbes à Pique.

This shrubby perennial is widespread in the thickets and woodlands of tropical America.

Z'herbes à pique is used by the Creoles of Dominica as a remedy for yaws (30). They also use the pounded stems and leaves of this plant either as a mild fish poison or as a wash (mixed with the bark of *Mammea americana* L.) applied to domestic animals infested with ticks.

The plant is known also to the Caribs whose women rub the [862] x 824 [862] leaves and flowers on their breasts when they desire to wean a child. This procedure is intended to render a bitter taste to the infant, not to stop lactation.

Specimen citation: 146 (T).

Rolandra fruticosa (Linnaeus) O. Kuntze, Rev. Gen. Pl. 360. 1891.

Rolandra argentea Rottboell, Coll. Soc. Med. Havn. 2 : 258. 1775. Tête Negresse.

A weedy species of the West Indies and continental tropical America.

[278] An infusion made from the roots of tête negresse is drunk by the Carib as a cure for either gonorrhea or stomach ache.

Specimen citation: 3278.

Wedelia trilobata (Linnaeus) Hitchcock, Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard. 4 : 99. 1893.

Wedelia carnosa L. C. Richard in Pers. Syn. 2 : 490. 1807. Marigold. — Patte Canard. — *tarani Tōkina* (« T's medicine »).

This species, widespread in the lands bordering on the Caribbean, is found in Florida, the West Indies, and Central America. In Dominica it occurs commonly on banks and in fields from sea level to middle elevations.

[278] The pounded leaves of marigold are used by the Caribs as a poultice on sores. For further uses see *Exostemma sanctae-luciae* and *Ocimum micranthum*.

Specimen citation: 22 (T), 3339.

V. ENUMERATION OF PLANTS BY CARIB USES

Plant sources of materials for Basketry or Plaiting

x 824	Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae
285	Anthurium palmatum (L.) Kth.	Araceae
	Bambusa vulgaris Schrad.	Gramineae
	Banisteria longifolia Sw.	Malphigiaceae
	Calathea lutea (Aubl.) G. F. W. Mey.	Marantaceae
	Clusia plukenetii Urb.	Guttiferae
	Coccoloba ascendens Duss	Polygonaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

824^{x}
285

Coccoloba uvifera (L.) Jacq.	Polygonaceae
Coccothrinax martinicensis Becc.	Palmae
Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Gramineae
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
Ischnosiphon arouma (Aubl.) Koern.	Marantaceae
Monstera pertusa (L.) de Vriese	Araceae
Pandanus utilis Bory	Pandanaceae
Passiflora laurifolia L.	Passifloraceae
Philodendron oxycardium Schott	Araceae
Picramnia pentandra Sw.	Simaroubaceae
Vetiveria zizanioides (L.) Nash.	Gramineae

Plant source of materials used in Building or Construction

824^{x}
342

Amanoa caribaea Kr. & Urb.	Euphorbiaceae
Andira inermis H. B. K.	Leguminosae
Antirrhoea coriacea (Vahl) Urb.	Rubiaceae
Bursera simaruba (L.) Sarg.	Burseraceae
Byrsonima spicata (Cav.) DC.	Malphigiaceae
Calophyllum antillanum Britton	Guttiferae
Carapa guianensis Aubl.	Meliaceae
Chimarrhis cymosa Jacq.	Rubiaceae
Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
Guatteria caribaea Urb.	Annonaceae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Gramineae
Licania ternatensis Hook. f.	Rosaceae
Manilkara nitida (Sesse & Moc.) Dub.	Sapotaceae
Mastichodendron foetidissimum (Jacq.) Lam.	Sapotaceae
Meliosma herbertii Rolfe	Sabiaceae
Ocotea sp.	Lauraceae
Ormosia monosperma (Sw.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Oxythece fabrilis Pierre	Sapotaceae
Pithecellobium jupunba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Richeria grandis Vahl	Euphorbiaceae
Simarouba amara Aubl.	Simaroubaceae
Stigmaphyllon puberum (L. C. Rich.) A. Juss.	Malphigiaceae
Symphonia globulifera L. f.	Guttiferae
Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
Terminalia catappa L.	Combretaceae
Tovomita plumieri Griseb.	Guttiferae
Vitex divaricata Sw.	Verbenaceae

Plant sources of materials used in Canoe Contruction

824^{x}
396

Carapa guianensis Aubl.	Meliaceae
Cecropia peltata L.	Moraceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

x 824	Chrysophyllum argenteum Jacq.	Sapotaceae
	Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
396	Daphnopsis caribaea Griseb.	Thymeliaceae
	Guatteria caribaea Urb.	Annonaceae
	Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	Malvaceae
	Sterculia caribaea R. Br.	Sterculiaceae
	Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
	Tapura antillana Gleason	Dichapetalaceae

Plant sources of Cordage or Twine

x 824	Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae
	Bambusa vulgaris Schrad.	Gramineae
283	Daphnopsis caribaea Griseb.	Thymeliaceae
	Furcraea tuberosa Ait. f.	Amaryllidaceae
	Gossypium barbadense L.	Malvaceae
	Gossypium vitifolium Lam.	Malvaceae
	Hibiscus tiliaceus L.	Malvaceae
	Sterculia caribaea R. Br.	Sterculiaceae
	Stigmaphyllon puberum (L. C. Rich.) A. Juss.	Malphigiaceae

Plant sources of Dyes, Pigments, or Tannins

x 824	Anacardium occidentale L.	Anacardiaceae
386	Bixa orellana L.	Bixaceae
	Byrsonima spicata (Cav.) DC.	Malphigiaceae
281	Cornutia pyramidata L.	Verbenaceae
	Curcuma longa L.	Zingiberaceae
	Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
	Genipa americana L.	Rubiaceae
	Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
	Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
	Picramnia pentandra Sw.	Simaroubaceae

Plant sources of Fish Drugs

x 824	Clibadium sylvestre (Aubl.) Baill.	Compositae
	Diospyros ebenaster Retz.	Ebenaceae
226	Lonchocarpus benthamianus Pittier	Leguminosae
	Lonchocarpus latifolius (Willd.) H. B. K.	Leguminosae
	Neurolaena lobata (L.) R. Br.	Compositae
	Pithecellobium jupunba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae

Plant sources of Food or Beverage

x 824	Acrocomia aculeata (Jacq.) Lodd.	Palmae
262	Aframomum granum-paradisi (Hook.) K. Schum.	Zingiberaceae
272	Aiphanes sp.	Palmae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Amaranthus spinosus L.	Amaranthaceae	824x
Amaranthus viridis L.	Amaranthaceae	
Anacardium occidentale L.	Anacardiaceae	262
Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae	272
Anethum graveolens L.	Umbelliferae	
Annona muricata L.	Annonaceae	
Annona reticulata L.	Annonaceae	
Annona squamosa L.	Annonaceae	
Arachis hypogaea L.	Leguminosae	
Bromelia karatas L.	Bromeliaceae	
Calathea allouia (Aubl.) Lindl.	Marantaceae	
Canna spp.	Cannaceae	
Capsicum frutescens L.	Solanaceae	
Cardiospermum halicacabum L.	Sapindaceae	
Carica papaya L.	Caricaceae	
Cassia hirsuta L.	Leguminosae	
Cassia occidentalis L.	Leguminosae	
Chenopodium ambrosioides L.	Chenopodiaceae	
Chrysobalanus icaco L.	Rosaceae	
Chrysophyllum argenteum Jacq.	Sapotaceae	
Coccoloba uvifera (L.) Jacq.	Rosaceae	
Cocos nucifera L.	Palmae	
Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott.	Araceae	
Dioscorea spp.	Dioscoreaceae	
Doliocarpus calinecoides (Eichl.) Gilg	Dilleniaceae	
Eleutherine bulbosa (Mill.) Urb.	Iridaceae	
Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae	
Genipa americana L.	Rubiaceae	
Hibiscus esculentus L.	Malvaceae	
Hymenaea courbaril L.	Leguminosae	
Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam.	Convolvulaceae	
Mammea americana L.	Guttiferae	
Manihot esculenta Crantz	Euphorbiaceae	
Manilkara nitida (Sessé & Moçino) Dubard	Sapotaceae	
Maranta arundinacea L.	Marantaceae	
Momordica charantia L.	Cucurbitaceae	
Musa paradisiaca L.	Musaceae	
Oxythece fabrilis Pierre	Sapotaceae	
Persea americana Mill.	Lauraceae	
Phaseolus vulgaris L.	Leguminosae	
Phytolacca rivinoides Kunth & Bouché	Phytolaccaceae	
Portulaca oleracea L.	Portulacaceae	
Psidium guajava L.	Myrtaceae	
Rajania cordata L.	Dioscoreaceae	
Rheedia lateriflora L.	Guttiferae	
Rhyticocos amara (Jacq.) Becc.	Palmae	
Saccharum officinarum L.	Gramineae	
Solanum melongena L.	Solanaceae	
Solanum nigrum L.	Solanaceae	
Spondias mombin L.	Anacardiaceae	

x824	Tapura antillana Gleason	Dichapetalaceae
262	Terminalia catappa L.	Combretaceae
272	Theobroma cacao L.	Sterculiaceae
	Xanthosoma atrovirens Koch & Bouché	Araceae
	Xanthosoma brasiliense (Desf.) Engl.	Araceae
	Xanthosoma violaceum Schott.	Araceae
	Zea mays L.	Gramineae

Plant sources of Medicines or Charms

x824	Aegiphila martinicensis Jacq.	Verbenaceae
	Aframomum granum-paradisi (Hook.) K. Schum.	Zingiberaceae
278	Alpinia speciosa (Wendl.) K. Schum.	Zingiberaceae
789	Ambrosia hispida Pursh	Compositae
	Ambrosia paniculata Michx.	Compositae
	Anacardium occidentale L.	Anacardiaceae
	Ananas comosus (L.) Merr.	Bromeliaceae
	Annona muricata L.	Annonaceae
	Annona reticulata L.	Annonaceae
	Annona squamosa L.	Annonaceae
	Anthurium palmatum (L.) Kth.	Araceae
	Antirrhoea coccinea (Vahl) Urb.	Rubiaceae
	Arachis hypogaea L.	Leguminosae
	Asclepias curassavica L.	Asclepiadaceae
	Begonia dominicalis A. DC.	Begoniaceae
	Bidens pilosa L. var. radiata Sch. Bip.	Compositae
	Bixa orellana L.	Bixaceae
	Borreria laevis (Lam.) Griseb.	Rubiaceae
	Bourreria succulenta Jacq.	Boraginaceae
	Bursera simaruba (L.) Sarg.	Burseraceae
	Byrsonima spicata (Cav.) DC.	Malphigiaceae
	Caladium bicolor (Ait.) Vent.	Araceae
	Capraria biflora L.	Scrophulariaceae
	Capsicum frutescens L.	Solanaceae
	Carica papaya L.	Caricaceae
	Cassia alata L.	Leguminosae
	Cassia bicapsularis L.	Leguminosae
	Cassia hirsuta L.	Leguminosae
	Cassia occidentalis L.	Leguminosae
	Cecropia peltata L.	Moraceae
	Chenopodium ambrosioides L.	Chenopodiaceae
	Chiococca alba (L.) Hitchcock	Rubiaceae
	Clerodendrum fragrans Vent. var. pleniflorum Schauer	Verbenaceae
	Clusia plukenetii Urb.	Guttiferae
	Cordia reticulata Vahl	Boraginaceae
	Cornutia pyramidata L.	Verbenaceae
	Cyathea arborea (L.) J. E. Sm.	Cyatheaceae
	Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
	Daphnopsis caribaea Griseb.	Thymeliaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Desmodium axillare (Sw.) DC. var. genuinum Urb.	**Leguminosae**	824x
Dianthera pectoralis Juss.	**Acanthaceae**	278
Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacq.) Schott	**Araceae**	
Dioscorea sp.	**Dioscoreaceae**	789
Egletes prostrata (Sw.) O. Ktze.	**Compositae**	
Eleusine indica (L.) Gaertn.	**Gramineae**	
Eleutherine bulbosa (Mill.) Urb.	**Iridaceae**	
Enicostema verticillatum (L.) Gilg	**Gentianaceae**	
Episcia melittifolia (L.) Mart.	**Gesneriaceae**	
Eryngium foetidum L.	**Umbelliferae**	
Erythrina corallodendron L. var. bicolor Krukoff	**Leguminosae**	
Euphorbia hypericifolia L.	**Euphorbiaceae**	
Exostemma sanctae-luciae (Kent.) J. Britten	**Rubiaceae**	
Ficus spp.	**Moraceae**	
Furcraea tuberosa Ait. f.	**Amaryllidaceae**	
Genipa americana L.	**Rubiaceae**	
Geophila herbacea (Jacq.) Schumann	**Rubiaceae**	
Gossypium vitifolium Lam.	**Malvaceae**	
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	**Gramineae**	
Hedychium coronarium Koen.	**Zingiberaceae**	
Heliconia bihai L.	**Musaceae**	
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	**Musaceae**	
Hibiscus esculentus L.	**Malvaceae**	
Hyptis atrorubens Poit.	**Labiatae**	
Inga laurina (Sw.) Willd.	**Leguminosae**	
Ipomoea pes-caprae (L.) Roth	**Convolvulaceae**	
Ipomoea spp.	**Convolvulaceae**	
Isotoma longiflora (L.) Presl	**Lobeliaceae**	
Jatropha curcas L.	**Euphorbiaceae**	
Jatropha gossypifolia L.	**Euphorbiaceae**	
Lantana camara L.	**Verbenaceae**	
Leonotis nepetaefolia (L.) R. Br.	**Labiatae**	
Lepidagathis alopecuroidea (Vahl) R. Br.	**Acanthaceae**	
Lochnera rosea (L.) Reich.	**Apocynaceae**	
Manihot esculenta Crantz	**Euphorbiaceae**	
Maranta arundinacea L.	**Marantaceae**	
Mimosa pudica L.	**Leguminosae**	
Momordica charantia L.	**Cucurbitaceae**	
Monstera pertusa (L.) de Vriese	**Araceae**	
Morinda citrifolia L.	**Rubiaceae**	
Musa paradisiaca L.	**Musaceae**	
Myrcia citrifolia (Aubl.) Urb.	**Myrtaceae**	
Neurolaena lobata (L.) R. Br.	**Compositae**	
Nicotiana tabacum L.	**Solanaceae**	
Ocimum micranthum Willd.	**Labiatae**	
Opuntia dillenii (Ker-Gawl) Haw.	**Cactaceae**	
Oxandra laurifolia (Sw.) Rich.	**Annonaceae**	
Pachystachys coccinea (Aubl.) Nees	**Acanthaceae**	
Pancratium speciosum L. F.	**Amaryllidaceae**	
Paspalum laxum Lam.	**Graminaceae**	

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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x 824	Passiflora andersonii DC.	Passifloraceae
	Passiflora foetida L.	Passifloraceae
278	Passiflora rubra L.	Passifloraceae
787	Peperomia pellucida (L.) H. B. K.	Piperaceae
	Petiveria alliacea L.	Phytolaccaceae
	Petrea kohautiana Presl	Verbenaceae
	Phyllanthus spp.	Euphorbiaceae
	Picrasma antillana Urb.	Simaroubaceae
	Pimenta racemosa (Miller) L. W. Moore	Myrtaceae
	Piper aequale Vahl	Piperaceae
	Piper dilatatum L. C. Rich	Piperaceae
	Pitcairnia gracilis Mez	Bromeliaceae
	Pitcairnia spicata (Lam.) Mez var. sulphurea (Andrews) Mez	Bromeliaceae
	Phytolacca rivinoides Kth. & Bouché	Phytolaccaceae
	Piper spp.	Piperaceae
	Pithecellobium jupunba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae
	Plantago major L.	Plantaginaceae
	Polygala paniculata L.	Polygalaceae
	Portulaca oleracea L.	Portulacaceae
	Pothomorphe peltata (L.) Miq.	Piperaceae
	Psidium guajava L.	Myrtaceae
	Psittacanthus martinicensis (Presl.) Eichler	Loranthaceae
	Rheedia lateriflora L.	Guttiferae
	Richeria grandis Vahl	Euphorbiaceae
	Ricinus communis L.	Euphorbiaceae
	Rivina humilis L.	Phytolaccaceae
	Rolandra fruticosa (L.) O. Ktze.	Compositae
	Sambucus simpsoni Rehder	Caprifoliaceae
	Sapindus saponaria L.	Sapindaceae
	Scoparia dulcis L.	Scrophulariaceae
	Smilax guianensis Vitm.	Liliaceae
	Solanum torvum Sw.	Solanaceae
	Spondias mombin L.	Anacardiaceae
	Stachytarpheta cayennensis (L. C. Rich.) Vahl	Verbenaceae
	Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (L.) Vahl	Verbenaceae
	Tabebuia pallida (Lindl.) Miers	Bignoniaceae
	Tabernaemontana citrifolia L.	Apocynaceae
	Tournefortia bicolor Sw.	Boraginaceae
	Trimeza martinicensis (Jacq.) Herb.	Iridaceae
	Urena lobata L.	Malvaceae
	Urena sinuata L.	Malvaceae
	Vitex divaricata Sw.	Verbenaceae
	Wedelia trilobata (L.) Hitchc.	Compositae
	Xanthosoma sp.	Araceae
	Zea mays L.	Gramineae

Plant sources of Thatch

x 824	Andropogon bicornis L.	Gramineae
	Calathea lutea (Aubl.) G. F. W. Mey.	Marantaceae
342	Carludovica insignis Duchass.	Cyclanthaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Carludovica plumieri H. B. K.	Cyclanthaceae	824x
Coccothrinax martinicensis Becc.	Palmae	342
Cocos nucifera L.	Palmae	
Euterpe dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae	
Geonoma dominicana L. H. Bailey	Palmae	
Geonoma hodgeorum L. H. Bailey	Palmae	
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Gramineae	
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae	
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae	
Pandanus utilis Bory	Pandanaceae	
Rhyticocos amara (Jacq.) Becc.	Palmae	

Plant sources of Miscellaneous Materials

824x

Acrocomia aculeata (Jacq.) Lodd.	Palmae
Aegiphila martinicensis Jacq.	Verbenaceae
Andropogon bicornis L.	Gramineae
Artocarpus altilis (Park.) Fosb.	Moraceae
Bixa orellana L.	Bixaceae
Bourreria succulenta Jacq.	Boraginaceae
Brunfelsia americana L.	Solanaceae
Bursera simaruba (L.) Sarg.	Burseraceae
Carapa guianensis Aubl.	Meliaceae
Carica papaya L.	Caricaceae
Ceiba pentandra (L.) Gaertn.	Bombacaceae
Chrysobalanus icaco L.	Rosaceae
Clusia plukenetii Urb.	Guttiferae
Coccothrinax martinicensis Becc.	Palmae
Cocos nucifera L.	Palmae
Crescentia cujete L.	Bignoniaceae
Cyathea arborea (L.) J. E. Sm.	Cyatheaceae
Dacryodes excelsa Vahl	Burseraceae
Dichromena ciliata Vahl	Cyperaceae
Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacq.) Schott.	Araceae
Enallagma latifolia (Mill.) Small	Bignoniaceae
Erithalis fruticosa L.	Rubiaceae
Guatteria caribaea Urb.	Annonaceae
Gynerium sagittatum (Aubl.) Beauv.	Gramineae
Heliconia bihai L.	Musaceae
Heliconia caribaea Lam.	Musaceae
Hibiscus esculentus L.	Malvaceae
Hippomane mancinella L.	Euphorbiaceae
Hyptis atrorubens Poit.	Labiatae
Licania ternatensis Hook. f.	Leguminosae
Musa paradisiaca L.	Musaceae
Musa paradisiaca L. subsp. sapientum (L.) O. Ktze.	Musaceae
Nicotiana tabacum L.	Solanaceae
Ochroma pyramidale (Cav.) Urb.	Bombacaceae
Pimenta racemosa (Mill.) J. W. Moore	Myrtaceae

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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x 824 Pithecellobium jupunba (Willd.) Urb.	Leguminosae
Quararibaea turbinata (Sw.) Poir.	Bombacaceae
Rhyticocos amara (Jacq.) Becc.	Palmae
Ricinus communis L.	Euphorbiaceae
Sapindus saponaria L.	Sapindaceae
Sapium caribaeum Urb.	Euphorbiaceae
Sida carpinifolia L.	Malvaceae
Sida cordifolia L.	Malvaceae
Sida rhombifolia L.	Malvaceae
Simarouba amara Aubl.	Simaroubaceae
Smilax guianensis Vitm.	Liliaceae
Theobroma cacao L.	Sterculiaceae

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[36] This list does not include the many references used in determining the accuracy of the plant names and their synonyms.

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[57] It should be stated that Stehlé had the benefit of a detailed study of a manuscript copy of our present work before he published this short paper yet no mention of this fact appears in his publication — W. H. H. and D. T.

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» blanc (montagne)	*Simarouba amara*	567
» cabrite	*Aegiphila martinicensis*	609
» canon	*Cecropia peltata*	553
» carapate (cf. Carapate)	*Carapa guianensis*	569
» cassave	*Cornutia pyramidata*	600
» chandelle	*Erithalis fruticosa*	611
» chicard	*Rheedia lateriflora*	585
» côte	*Tapura antillana*	571

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Creole name	Scientific name	
Bois diable	*Licania ternatensis* . . . Page	560
» d'Inde	*Pimenta racemosa*	592
» flot	*Ochroma pyramidale*	582
» immortel	*Erythrina corallodendron*	563
» laite (lait)	*Tabernaemontana citrifolia*	597
» lezard	*Vitex divaricata*	602
» pian	*Oxandra laurifolia*	559
» riviere	*Chimarrhis cymosa*	610
» savonette (cf. Savonette)	*Sapindus saponaria*	578
» tan (cf. Tan)	*Byrsonima spicata*	570
» violon	*Guatteria caribaea*	558
Bon bazin (v. Fon bazin)		
Boui	*Chrysophyllum argenteum*	594
Bouton blanc	*Egletes prostrata*	615
Branda	*Chiococca alba*	610
Caca poule	*Lochnera rosea*	596
Cachibou	*Calathea lutea*	548
Cachiman	*Annona reticulata*	558
Cachiman zombi	*Morinda citrifolia*	612
Caco	*Theobroma cacao*	583
Caconier	*Ormosia monosperma*	565
Cacoyer	*Desmodium axillare*	563
Caïmite (v. Boui)		
Calabouli	*Stigmaphyllon puberum*	571
Calebasse	*Crescentia cujete*	606
	Enallagma latifolia	607
Camanioc	*Manihot esculenta* (a sweet variety)	573
Canne	*Saccharum officinarum*	528
» riviere (v. Gingembre douleur)		
Capi	*Ipomoea spp.*	597
Capitaine bois (v. Roi bois)		
Carapate (v. Graines)		
Carapite	*Amanoa caribaea*	572
Cercle baril (v. Liane baril)		
Cercle caco (v. Corde caco)		
Chadron beni	*Eryngium foetidum*	594
Chalotte c'raïbe	*Eleutherine* ?*bulbosa*	542
Chandelier	*Pachystachys coccinea*	509
Chiendent	*Paspalum laxum*	528
Chou	*Xanthosoma spp.*	537
Chou froidi (froidure)	*Xanthosoma sp.*	538
Cicerou (v. Pipiri)		
Coco	*Cocos nucifera*	532
» chatte	*Trimezia martinicensis*	543
» nain (v. Yattahou)		
» poule	*Cordia reticulata*	599
Corde caco	*Banisteria longifolia*	570
» d'l'eau	*Doliocarpus calineoides*	584
» molle	*Philodendron oxycardium*	537

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Creole name	Scientific name	
Corossol	*Annona muricata*	Page 557
Coton	*Gossypium spp.*	579
Coubari	*Hymenaea courbaril*	564
Couchecouche, Coucouche	*Dioscorea trifida*	542
Coudjourouc	*Petiveria alliacea*	556
Coupier	*Portulaca oleracea*	557
Couroupoume	*Myrcia citrifolia*	593
Dachine	*Colocasia esculenta*	535
» marbre (v. Hale bois)		
Demoiselle	*Rivina humilis*	556
Desay (Eng. « *daisy* »)	*Cassia alata*	561
Du thé pays	*Capraria biflora*	605
Echalotte caraïbe (v. Chalotte c'raïbe)		
Empoisonneur	*Brunfelsia americana*	603
Esta fragile	*Polygala paniculata*	571
Feuille frete (« froide » ; v. Cachiman zombi)		
Fougere	*Cyathea arborea*	525
Fidjier (« Figuier »)	*Ficus spp.*	553
Figue	*Musa paradisiaca* var. *sapientum*	545
Fleur - la - Fête - de - Dieu	*Petrea kohautiana*	601
Fon bazin (« Framboisin »)	*Ocimum micranthum*	602
Fromager	*Ceiba pentandra*	581
Galba	*Calophyllum antillanum*	584
Gingembre douleur	*Hedychium coronarium*	546
Glouglou	*Acrocomia aculeata*	530
Gombo	*Hibiscus esculentus*	580
» zombi		
Gommier	*Dacryodes excelsa*	568
Gommier rouge	*Bursera simaruba*	568
Gouyave	*Psidium guajava*	593
Graines (carapate)	*Ricinus communis*	576
» en bas feuilles	*Phyllanthus spp.*	575
Grigri	*Aiphanes sp.*	531
Gros tête	*Leonotis nepetaefolia*	602
Hale bois	*Caladium bicolor*	535
Honteuse	*Mimosa pudica*	565
Igname (v. yame)		
Lagli (Fr. *la glu*)	*Sapium caribaeum*	576
La menthe-grand-chemin	*Hyptis atrorubens*	602
Langelin	*Andira inermis*	561
Langue boeuf	*Furcraea tuberosa*	541
L'anis	*Anethum graveolens*	594
La pite	*Ananas comosus* var.	538
Larouman	*Ischnosiphon arouma*	548
Latanier	*Coccothrinax martinicensis*	531
Laurier de rose	*Ocotea sp.*	559
Lavanne (« lavandre »)	*Alpinia speciosa*	546
Lele	*Quararibaea turbinata*	582

Creole name	**Scientific name**	
L'envers	*Maranta arundinacea* . . . *Page*	550
Liane baril	*Coccoloba ascendens*	554
» pomme	*Passiflora laurifolia*	589
Loseille	*Begonia dominicalis* *Episcia melittifolia*	590 608
Mabizou	*Lantana camara*	601
Madjini	*Hippomane mancinella*	572
Maho cochon	*Sterculia caribaea*	583
» cousin	*Urena sp.*	581
» doux	*Hibiscus tiliaceus*	580
» gouja (v. Marigouja)		
» noir (v. Bois violon)		
» piment	*Daphnopsis caribaea*	591
Maitre bois (v. Roi bois)		
Mal dormi	*Euphorbia hypericifolia*	572
» l'estomac (v. Malbrouk)		
» nomme (v. Mal dormi)		
» tête	*Pothomorphe peltata*	553
Malbrouk	*Piper spp.*	552
Mang blanc, M. jaune	*Symphonia globulifera*	586
» rouge	*Tovomita plumieri*	587
Manioc	*Manihot esculenta*	573
Manioc doux	» » (a sweet variety)	573
Marcel fragile (v. Esta fragile)		
Marigole (v. Patte canard)		
Marigouja	*Passiflora foetida*	589
Medecinier	*Jatropha spp.*	573
Mi (mai, mais, marisi)	*Zea mays*	529
Mibi	*Anthurium palmatum*	535
Mibi	*Monstera pertusa*	537
Mirette	*Tournefortia bicolor*	599
Moricypre (v. Bois tan)		
Moselle	*Clerodendrum fragrans*	600
Monben	*Spondias mombin*	577
Nivrage (Fr. *enivrage*)	*Clibadium sylvestre*	614
Ognon d'lys	*Pancratium speciosum*	541
Ouaoua	*Rajania cordata*	542
Palmiste	*Euterpe dominicana*	532
Panache	*Andropogon bicornis*	526
Papaye	*Carica papaya*	590
Parasol 'gouti (v. Graines en bas feuilles)		
Patate	*Ipomoea batatas*	597
Patate bord-la-mer	*Ipomoea pes-caprae*	598
Patte canard	*Wedelia trilobata*	616
Pied poule	*Eleusine indica*	527
Piment z'oiseaux	*Capsicum frutescens*	603
Pingouin	*Bromelia karatas*	539
Pipe zombi	*Isotoma longiflora*	603

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Creole name	Scientific name	Page
Pipiri	*Pithecellobium jupunba*	566
Pistache	*Arachis hypogaea*	561
Plantain	*Plantago major*	609
Pois	*Phaseolus vulgaris*	565
Pois doux	*Inga laurina*	564
Poivre Djinee (« Guinee »)	*Aframomum granum-paradisi*	545
Pomme (noix)	*Anacardium occidentale*	577
» cannelle	*Annona squamosa*	558
» chique	*Clusia plukenetii*	585
» coolie	*Momordica charantia*	613
Poirier	*Tabebuia pallida*	608
Quina	*Exostemma sanctae-luciae*	611
Raisin bord-la-mer	*Coccoloba uvifera*	554
Ratchette (Fr. *raquette*)	*Opuntia dillenii*	591
Rocou	*Bixa orellana*	587
Roi bois	*Psittacanthus martinicensis*	554
Roseau	*Gynerium sagittatum*	527
Safran	*Curcuma longa*	546
Sainteville	*Ambrosia hispida*	614
	Ambrosia paniculata	614
Savonette (cf. Bois savonette)	*Lonchocarpus spp.*	564
Semen contra	*Chenopodium ambrosioides*	555
Sept-ans	*Meliosma herbertii*	579
Sidjine	*Dieffenbachia seguine*	536
Simaruba	*Picrasma antillana*	567
Sou marqué	*Cassia bicapsularis*	562
Suyeau (« sureau »)	*Sambucus simpsoni*	613
Tabac pays	*Nicotiana tabacum*	604
Tan (cf. Bois tan)	*Picramnia pentandra*	566
Tawai	*Bourreria succulenta*	599
Tête negresse	*Rolandra fruticosa*	616
Ti baume	*Hyptis atrorubens*	602
Ti cappi tourterelle	*Geophila herbacea*	612
Tolouman	*Canna spp.*	547
Topitambour	*Calathea allouia*	547
Verveine	*Stachytarpheta spp.*	601
Vetiver	*Vetiveria zizanioides*	528
Yame	*Dioscorea spp.*	542
Yanga	*Geonoma dominicana*	533
	Geonoma hodgeorum	533
Yattahou	*Rhyticocos amara*	533
Z'Aboca	*Persea americana*	560
Zabrico (Fr. *abricot*)	*Mammea americana*	585
Z'Amande (Fr. *amande*)	*Terminalia catappa*	592
Zanana (Fr. *ananas*)	*Ananas comosus*	538
Zele mouche (Fr. *des ailes de*)	*Carludovica spp.*	534
Zeb (Fr. des herbes) akwe	*Borreria laevis*	610
» ameres	*Solanum nigrum*	605
» apique	*Neurolaena lobata*	615

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Creole name	**Scientific name**	
Zeb couresse	*Peperomia pellucida* . . . *Page*	552
» paillasse	*Dichromena ciliata*	530
» piantes (Fr. *puantes*) male	*Cassia hirsuta*	562
» » (» ») femelle	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
Zepina (Fr. *des epinards*)	*Amaranthus spp.*	555
Z'Icaque (Fr. *des icacques*)	*Chrysobalanus icaco*	560
Z'Oreilles mulâtre (des oreilles de mulâtre)	*Phytolacca rivinoides*	556

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Carib name	**Scientific name**	
abábai	*Carica papaya* . . . . . . *Page*	590
ákuliárani (« eye-medicine »)	*Euphorbia hypericifolia*	572
alakáliua (m) (v. kasíma)		
álasibíkai (m) (v. sáua)		
alátani, haráta	*Coccothrinax martinicensis*	531
aláuali áku liã (v. ákuliárani)		
alukálua, harukálua (« white-flecked »?)	*Pithecellobium jupunba*	566
amámel	*Cyathea arborea*	525
asúru, hasúru (« peeled »?)	*Pimenta racemosa*	592
áti	*Capsicum frutescens*	603
átikuno, átikũ (m) (v. ualúma)		
auási (m) (cf. Tupi *abata*)	*Zea mays*	529
áukakua	*Antirrhoea coriacea*	609
áukuma	*Mastichodendron foetidissimum*	595
báibai (m)	*Coccoloba uvifera*	555

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[18] KEY TO THE SPELLING OF CARIB NAMES.

Only the following symbols have been used in transcribing Carib words; m, p, b; nh, n, t, s, l, r; k, h; i, u; e, o; a; ¯ (line over vowel) to denote nasalization, and ´ (acute accent over vowel) to denote stress. These represent the « phonemes » of the Dominican dialect of Island-Carib; — all those units of sound that are susceptible of distinguishing one word from another in this language. So, *p* and *nh* are distinguised from *b* and *n* in that the former are aspirated, the latter unaspirated; *o* and *u* are both back vowels, but the former is unrounded, the latter rounded and pronounced as « u » in some positions, as « o » in others, and as the « u » of French *huile* when it is non-syllabic before *i* or *e*. Both *u* and *i* are non-syllabic (semi-vowels) when, themselves unstressed, they precede another vowel, as in *iu*, *io*, *ie*, *ui*, *ue*, *uo*; *ia* and *ua* are more often slightly disyllabic. In *ei*, *ai*, *ao*, and *au*, the second element is non-syllabic unless stressed. Where two or more forms are given on the same line, as in *iáli*, *iári* « tobacco », these are taken from earlier and later stages respectively of the same language.

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Carib name	**Scientific name**	
bakúku	*Musa paradisiaca* ssp. *sapientum*	545
bálata	*Manilkara nitida* . . . . *Page*	595
balátana (cf. Spanish *platano* ; v. balúru)		
balaúbukuru (« sea-venom »)	*Hippomane mancinella*	572
balíẽ, baríẽ	*Eryngium foetidum*	594
balíkasi (v. kuiábu)		
balíri (cf. balúru)	*Heliconia bihai, H. caribaea*	543. 544
balúbui (m) (v. nalíapa)		
balúru (cf. balíri)	*Musa paradisiaca*	544
bárakua (« ungual »?)	*Pandanus utilis*	525
báta, páta	*Opuntia dillenii*	591
bíhi (v. kaiárali)		
bíset (w)	*Bixa orellana*	587
buémuẽ (m) (v. áti)		
buléua (m) (« arrow », « pierce » ; v. mabúlu)		
búsu nebénene (from Fr. *bon jour* plus *nebénene* « my sponsor »)	*Mimosa pudica*	565
emátabi (m) (v. bíset)		
émeruáiuma, lemúru	*Petiveria alliacea*	556
hukúaka íleue (« double »? « flower »)	*Pancratium speciosum*	541
huleúmele, hureúmele (« lizard leaf »)	*Vitex divaricata*	602
iáiana	*Ananas comosus*	538
ianáua	*Myrcia citrifolia*	593
iátaho	*Rhyticocos amara*	533
iauála (cf. Tupi *yawari*)	*Acrocomia aculeata*	530
ikáku, hikáku	*Chrysobalanus icaco*	560
ikálotopue (m) (v. mãulu)		
inéku	*Lonchocarpus spp.*	564
	Hibiscus esculentus	580
itámãle (m) (v. iúli)		
iúli, iúri (w)	*Nicotiana tabacum*	604
iúbue (m) (v. kamániã)		
kábu	*Theobroma cacao*	583
kaiárali	*Rajania cordata*	542
kákuti	*Tabernaemontana citrifolia*	597
kalábuli	*Stigmaphyllon puberum*	571
kalíkiri	*Annona squamosa*	558
kamániã	*Manihot esculenta* (sweet var.)	573
kánise (from Spanish *cañas*)	*Saccharum officinarum*	528
karúara (w)	*Bromelia karatas*	539
kasíbu (« sharp-pointed »)	*Calathea lutea*	548
kasíma	*Annona reticulata*	558
kaúkule	*Ipomoea pes-caprae*	598
kaúrubali	*Hymenaea courbaril*	564
kãĩ (w)	*Manihot esculenta* (bitter var.)	573
kiére (m) (v. kãĩ)		

Carib name	**Scientific name**	
kuáho	*Carapa guianensis*	*Page* 569
kuáma (« plume, panache »)	*Bambusa vulgaris*	526
kuási	*Ficus spp.*	553
kuiábu	*Psidium guajava* (white variety)	593
kuiékuiéti (« slippery, slimy »)	*Stachytarpheta spp.*	601
kulábule	*Cassia hirsuta*	562
kuláuaho	*Ocotea sp.*	559
kulubísulu (m) (v. karúara)		
kulúra	*Symphonia globulifera*	586
kumáka	*Ceiba pentandra*	581
kumánana (v. kamániã)		
kunámi (cf. Tupí *kunabi*)	*Clibadium sylvestre*	614
kuráua	*Ananas comosus* (fibrous variety)	538
kuríbĩũ ákuani (« bird-bath » or « twist-bath », v. kuiékuiéti)		
kuséue (m) (v. bíset)		
kúsu (w)	*Dioscorea trifida*	542
lamáho (w)	*Ricinus communis*	576
lẽ méku (« monkey's genitals » ; v. merékuia)		
lúluru (w)	*Sapindus saponaria*	578
mábi	*Ipomoea batatas*	597
mabúlu, mabúru	*Gynerium sagittatum*	527
makúti	*Phaseolus vulgaris*	565
mápuia ámuse (m) (« bush-spirit's stock » ; v. róbu)		
márisi (w) (v. auási)		
masíbui	*Mammea americana*	585
matálu (m) (v. uíra)		
matérebe	*Urena spp.*	581
māli (cf. Tupi *mandubi*)	*Arachis hypogaea*	561
māulu (m) (cf. Tupi *amandiyu-b*)	*Gossypium spp.*	579
merékuia (cf. Tupi *marakuya*)	*Passiflora foetida*	589
	Passiflora laurifolia	589
míbi (generic for « bush-rope », especially	*Anthurium palmatum*	535
	Monstera pertusa	537
múbẽ (listed as w, but probably m)	*Spondias mombin*	577
munusíale (« twin leaf »)	*Carludovica spp.*	534
muréi, muléi	*Byrsonima spicata*	570
nalúbunõ (m) (v. ikaku)		
námai (m) (v. kúsu)		
nh ákera háho (w) (« ants' hammock »; v. kulábule)		
páluma (from Spanish *palma*)	*Cocos nucifera*	532
pútuku	*Ipomoea spp.*	597
róbu	*Ochroma pyramidale*	582
rókri	*Aiphanes sp.*	531
sáua (w)	*Genipa americana*	611
síbu (« support, buttress »)	*Dacryodes excelsa*	568

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Carib name	**Scientific name**	
simáruba	*Simarouba amara*	*Page* 567
sulúmanũ (m) (v. lamáho)		
surúkuli (« soaked »?)	*Bixa orellana* (paint mixed from)	587
tábulubu (m) (v. sáua)		
táia (m) (cf. Tupi *idem* ; v. uáho)		
táka-táka (v. ianáua)		
tárani Tōkina (T.'s medicine »)	*Wedelia trilobata*	616
taríkai (« her/its ears »)	*Phytolacca rivinoides*	556
tauái	*Bourreria succulenta*	599
túlala (« that which pierces »?)	*Maranta arundinacea*	550
túli (« torch » ; cf. Tupi turi)	*Erithalis fruticosa*	611
túlisi (m) (v. lúluru)		
uáho (w)	*Xanthosoma spp.*	537
uainiu, uáiu	*Hibiscus tiliaceus*	580
uakábu (« house-post »)	*Andira inermis*	561
uákakã (v. ualúma)		
ualápana (cf. Taino *uanábana*)	*Annona muricata*	557
ualéiri (m) (v. áti)		
ualíapa (w)	*Psidium guajava* (red variety)	593
uálukuti (v. kákuti)		
ualúma, uarúma	*Ischnosiphon arouma*	548
úbu, húbu (listed as m, but probably w ; v. múbẽ)		
uélekene	*Sapium caribaeum*	576
uélere	*Dieffenbachia seguine*	536
uése	*Euterpe dominicana*	532
uíra (w)	*Crescentia cujete*	606
ulábule	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
úle (generic name for edible roots or tubers ; v. mábi)		
ulíẽ (ẇ) (v. báibai)		
úlui, álui, úrui	*Anacardium occidentale*	577
utáuaho	*Exostemma sanctae-luciae*	611

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Amomum, Grains-of-Paradise	*Aframomum granum-paradisi*	*Page* 545
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Annatto	*Bixa orellana*	587
Apple, Black	*Diospyros ebenaster*	596
Apple, Custard	*Annona reticulata*	558
Apple, Sugar	*Annona squamosa*	558
Arrow	*Gynerium sagittatum*	527
Arrowroot	*Maranta arundinacea*	550

English name	Scientific name	Page
Ash, Bitter	*Picrasma antillana*	567
Avocado	*Persea americana*	560
Balsa	*Ochroma pyramidale*	582
Balsam Apple, Wild	*Momordica charantia*	613
Bamboo, Common	*Bambusa vulgaris*	526
Banana	*Musa paradisiaca subsp. sapientum*	545
Basil, Wild	*Ocimum micranthum*	602
Bean, Castor	*Ricinus communis*	576
Bean, Kidney	*Phaseolus vulgaris*	565
Begonia, Dominica	*Begonia dominicalis*	590
Birch, West Indian	*Bursera simiaruba*	568
Bitter-Bush	*Picramnia pentandra*	566
Black Torch	*Erithalis fruticosa*	611
Bullock's Heart	*Annona reticulata*	558
Cacao	*Theobroma cacao*	583
Calaba	*Calophyllum brasiliense* var. *antillanum.*	584
Calabash	*Crescentia cujete*	606
Calabash, Black	*Enallagma latifolia*	607
Cane, Dumb	*Dieffenbachia seguine*	536
Cane, Wild	*Gynerium sagittatum*	527
Canna	*Canna spp.*	547
Cashew	*Anacardium occidentale*	577
Cassava	*Manihot esculenta*	573
Cedar, Spanish	*Cedrela odorata*	569
Cedar, White	*Tabebuia pallida*	608
Clerodendrum, Fragrant	*Clerodendrum fragrans* var. *pleniflorum*	600
Cocoa-Tree	*Theobroma cacao*	583
Coco-plum	*Chrysobalanus icaco*	560
Coffee, Jumbie	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
Coffee, Negro	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
Coffee, Wild	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
Corkwood	*Ochroma pyramidale*	582
Corn, Indian	*Zea mays*	529
Cotton	*Gossypium spp.*	579
Courbaril	*Hymenaea courbaril*	564
Daisy, White	*Bidens pilosa*	614
Dasheen	*Colocasia esculenta*	535
Dill	*Anethum graveolens*	594
Doctor bush	*Piper spp.*	552
Egg Plant	*Solanum melongena*	604
Elder	*Sambucus simpsoni*	613
Fowl's Foot	*Eleusine indica*	527
Galba	*Calophyllum brasiliense* var. *antillanum*	584
Genip	*Genipa americana*	611
Goatweed	*Capraria biflora*	605
Grape, Sea	*Coccoloba uvifera*	554
Guava	*Psidium guajava*	593
Gumbo-Limbo	*Bursera simaruba*	568
Icaco	*Chrysobalanus icaco*	560

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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English name	**Scientific name**	*Page*
Indian Shot	*Canna spp.*	547
Kapok	*Ceiba pentandra*	581
Khus-Khus	*Vetiveria zizanioides*	528
Lily, Ginger	*Hedychium coronarium*	546
Lily, Spider	*Pancratium speciosum*	541
Lily, White	*Pancratium speciosum*	541
Locust, West Indian	*Hymenaea courbaril*	564
Mahoe	*Hibiscus tiliaceus*	580
Mahogany, Bastard	*Andira inermis*	561
Maize	*Zea mays*	529
Mamey	*Mammea americana*	585
Mammee-Apple	*Mammea americana*	585
Manchineel	*Hippomane mancinella*	572
Mang, Yellow	*Symphonia globulifera*	586
Maraca	*Canna spp.*	547
Maria	*Calophyllum brasiliense* var. *antillanum*	584
Marigold	*Wedelia trilobata*	616
Milkweed, Red.	*Asclepias curassavica*	597
Monkey's Hand	*Pothomorphe peltata*	553
Morning-glory, Beach	*Ipomoea pes-caprae*	598
Nightshade, Common	*Solanum nigrum*	605
Okra	*Hibiscus esculentus*	580
Purslane	*Portulaca oleracea*	557
Palm, Coconut	*Cocos nucifera*	532
Palm, Overtop	*Rhyticocos amara*	533
Papaw	*Carica papaya*	590
Papaya	*Carica papaya*	590
Passion-Flower	*Passiflora spp.*	589
Peanut	*Arachis hypogaea*	561
Pear, Alligator	*Persea americana*	560
Pear, Prickly	*Opuntia dillenii*	591
Pepper, Red	*Capsicum frutescens*	603
Periwinkle	*Lochnera rosea*	596
Physic-Nut	*Jatropha spp.*	573
Pineapple	*Ananas comosus*	538
Plantain	*Musa paradisiaca*	544
Plantain	*Plantago major*	609
Plantain, Wild	*Heliconia bihai*	543
	Heliconia caribaea	544
Plum, Hog	*Spondias mombin*	577
Potato, Sweet	*Ipomoea batatas*	597
Pokeweed	*Phytolacca rivinoides*	556
Rain-Tree	*Brunfelsia americana*	603
Ringworm Shrub	*Cassia alata*	561
Sage, Wild	*Lantana camara*	601
Santa Maria	*Calophyllum brasiliense* var. *antillanum*	584
Screw Pine	*Pandanus utilis*	525
Senna, Coffee	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
Sensitive Plant	*Mimosa pudica*	565

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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English name	**Scientific name**	
Shell Flower	*Alpinia speciosa*	Page 546
Snowberry, West Indian	*Chiococca alba*	610
Soapberry	*Sapindus saponaria*	578
Soursop	*Annona muricata*	557
Stinking Weed	*Cassia occidentalis*	563
Sweetsop	*Annona squamosa*	558
Tapioca Plant	*Manihot esculenta*	573
Tobacco	*Nicotiana tabacum*	604
Tree, Bay	*Pimenta racemosa*	592
Tree, Bay Rum	*Pimenta racemosa*	592
Tree, Bully	*Manilkara nitida*	595
Tree, Coral	*Erythrina corallodendron* var. *bicolor*	563
Tree, Gum	*Bursera simaruba*	568
Tree, Hat Stand	*Rheedia lateriflora*	585
Tree, Silk Cotton	*Ceiba pentandra*	581
Tree, Soap	*Sapindus saponaria*	578
Tree, Swizzle-stick	*Quararibaea turbinata*	582
Tree, Turpentine	*Bursera simaruba*	568
Tree Fern	*Cyathea arborea*	525
Trefoil, Tick	*Desmodium axillare* var. *axillare*	563
Trumpet-Tree	*Cecropia peltata*	553
Trumpet-Wood	*Cecropia peltata*	553
Turmeric	*Curcuma longa*	546
Wood, Bullet	*Manilkara nitida*	595
Wormseed	*Chenopodium ambrosioides*	555
Wreath, Purple	*Petrea kohautiana*	601
Yam	*Dioscorea ssp.*	542
Yautia	*Xanthosoma* spp.	537

RIASSUNTO

Al tempo della scoperta del Nuovo Mondo, nel 1492, gli Spagnoli trovarono le Indie Occidentali dominate dagli aborigeni di lingua arawakan. Le popolazioni delle Grandi Antille sono state chiamate Tainos, mentre quelle che abitavano le Piccole Antille sono conosciute come Caraibi. Come risultato dell'insediamento e dello sfruttamento europeo, la maggioranza degli indigeni delle Antille furono eliminati. Tuttavia, grazie alla natura montagnosa di alcune delle Piccole Antille che offrì loro una valida difesa, i bellicosi Caraibi ebbero la possibilità di sopravvivere come un importante gruppo indipendente per buona parte del XVIII secolo. Oggi tutto ciò che rimane di questa tribù, un tempo potente, è ridotto soltanto a poche centinaia di individui, che vivono fuori delle loro primitive dimore in una riserva boscosa di 3700 acri situata sulla costa orientale della piccola isola britannica di Dominica.

I Caraibi di Dominica rappresentano gli ultimi superstiti di tutti gli indiani che originariamente popolavano le Antille dalle Bahamas fino al Sud America. L'incrocio tra i Caraibi e i negri africani cancellerà alla fine tutte le vestigia di questo gruppo indiano e con tale scomparsa verrà distrutto tutto il patri-

monio di cognizioni dei Caraibi incluse le conoscenze dei molti usi delle piante indigene. Questo lavoro è così un tentativo di raccogliere e conservare quanto tuttora esiste del patrimonio di cognizioni che i Caraibi hanno sulle piante. Le informazioni qui pubblicate rappresentano lo sforzo combinato di un botanico e di un etnografo che hanno lavorato in collaborazione con l'aiuto di un certo numero dei più vecchi informatori indiani della Riserva dei Caraibi. A questo materiale originale sono state aggiunte altre informazioni raccolte dalle relazioni dei primi cronisti.

Il lavoro comprende cinque parti principali: una introduzione, un breve cenno storico, un ragguaglio sui materiali e sui metodi di studio, un catalogo esteso delle piante economiche dei Caraibi, e una enumerazione tabulare delle piante in base agli usi per i quali esse fanno parte dell'economia domestica indiana. A questi capitoli sono stati aggiunti gli indici dei vari tipi di nomi (Creolo patois, Caraibico, Inglese e scientifico) per mezzo dei quali queste piante sono conosciute in Dominica. L'insieme delle piante dei Caraibi può essere sommariamente diviso in tre parti:

1. Specie, selvatiche o coltivate, che sono o possono essere usate per cibo o per bevande.
2. Specie, selvatiche o coltivate, che sono o possono essere usate per scopi domestici, inclusi la costruzione di canoe e di tutti gli strumenti ed utensili pertinenti alla caccia, alla pesca, all'agricoltura, alla raccolta e preparazione dei cibi.
3. Specie che si ritiene abbiano virtù magiche o medicinali o credute tali.

La maggior parte delle piante citate sono rappresentate da esemplari con numero di riferimento raccolti in Dominica e depositati nel Gray Herbarium della Harvard University a Cambridge, Massachussetts.

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13: Hodge & Taylor
824

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[For information on the ethnobotany of the Callinago, see category 116, pp. 522-523, 525-624.]

13: Hodge & Taylor
515, 754, 777, 782

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[For information on ritual baths for the purposes of counteracting sorcery, and giving good luck, see category 789]

13: Hodge & Taylor
272

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[Information on beverages which are prepared for medicinal use has been classified under category 278]

13: Hodge & Taylor
164

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[For information on diseases and infirmities which is incidental to a description of medicines used for their treatment, see category 278]